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Cabinet reshuffle expected

By SARAH HONG

The High Court rulings on the Bar-On Affair petitions, due tomorrow, and the verdict in the trial of former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman, a day later, are intensifying expectations of a cabinet reshuffle in the near future.

The soaring political temperatures were unchecked by the fact that, in its response to the High Court, the government stated that Justice Minister Avraham Hanegbi would not be replaced.

While speculation is rife about senior cabinet positions, there is also renewed speculation about the two top diplomatic postings—in Washington and New York.

Ambassador to the US Elhan Ben-Elissar is said to be interested in another, very senior position back home, while senior adviser to the prime minister David Bar-Ilan is again being mentioned as Israel's UN ambassador. Netanyahu's adviser Dore Gold is being touted as the leading candidate to replace Ben-Elissar.

In political circles close to the government, the feeling is that there will be political fallout no matter what the High Court rules on the Bar-On petitions before it.

Like a bomb, said one senior party official, the government must keep up appearances so as not to give the impression that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is seeking Hanegbi.

If Ne'eman is cleared, this would give Netanyahu an easy way out of his political constraints.

Continued on Page 9



Celebrating freedom and independence

Immigration and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein and his son, Eli Assaf, 7, mark the 10th anniversary of his being freed from Soviet prison on Yom Ha'atzmaut in 1987. (Scoop 80)

Labor readies for Peres-Barak showdown

By SARAH HONG

The Labor Party is primed for a major confrontation at its convention today, unless party chairman Shimon Peres and his would-be successor, Ehud Barak, can defuse at the last minute the argument over the naming of Peres as party president, which not only threatens the convention but also the June 3 leadership primary.

Fervent contacts were under way throughout Independence Day, including a tete-a-tete between Peres and Barak, followed by a meeting of the party's Secretary-General Nissim Zivili (for Peres) and MK Avraham Shohat (for Barak).

Both conversations failed to resolve the dispute, however. Late last night, both camps were engaged in internal deliberations and the search for the magic verbal formula that would prevent an immediate showdown.

Barak fears that letting Peres be appointed as party president

would leave him with a claim on the actual Labor leadership and would in fact install Peres as co-leader. Peres, according to Barak, would then clash with the new chairman that is elected in June. Barak wants ironclad stipulations that the title of president is an honorary one, and also would like the appointment put off till the September session of the convention.

Peres yesterday vehemently rejected both restrictions. He told his supporters that if he is not named president today, he does not want the position at all, and that it would be out of the question for him to accept a job that had no authority.

In his tense meeting with Barak, Peres reportedly also categorically turned down a proposal that he be appointed president today but that it be stipulated that his job description would only be fixed in September and that it would be binding.

This leaves the sides on a collision course. The Peres side has warned that if Peres is not named

president today, the entire convention and the political processes stemming from it would be stymied. The Barak side is threatening to adjourn the convention as soon as it opens today and to put it off until September. But if the convention is adjourned, warn Peres's backers, there will be no leadership primary.

Four candidates are in the running for the Labor leadership—Barak, seen as the front-runner, and MKs Yossi Beilin, Ephraim Sneh and Shlomo Ben-Ami.

Sneh took part in the Peres camp caucus in an attempt to prevent a total break-up of the convention, and then talked twice with Barak.

He has proposed that the sides agree that Peres would receive full honors while the new chairman would get full authority. Sneh's proposal had been the basis for the compromise formulations that Barak put to Peres and which Peres rejected as humiliating and dictatorial.

Continued on Page 9

Weizman disappointed by talks' lack of progress

By DAVID RUDGE

President Ezer Weizman expressed disappointment yesterday that the talks between the Israeli and Palestinian delegations in the state capital of Ramatallah had not produced any progress.

"We are in the channel and we are trying to follow it," Weizman said, referring to the talks last week.

He said that the talks were a meeting between Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Arafat's deputy, Yassir Arafat, to follow the talks.

Weizman was interviewed on Channel 2's news program, where he said that the talks were the first step in the process.

Continued on Page 9

4 Hizbullah gunmen killed in Lebanon

By DAVID RUDGE

At least four Hizbullah gunmen were killed in an abortive attempt to capture a South Lebanese Army outpost in the eastern sector of the security zone.

An SLA soldier suffered moderate wounds and an IDF soldier and three SLA troops were slightly hurt in the attack on the Soujeid position.

IAF warplanes twice struck Hizbullah targets in the Beit She'an region north of the security zone, in response to the attack.

The IDF spokesman said the attack was a direct hit on the targets, and that all the planned targets were destroyed.

Hizbullah's attack on the Soujeid position began around 1 p.m. with a mortar assault by at least 10 mortars, followed by a heavy fire.

Initially, the group announced that members of its fighting arm, the Islamic Resistance, had overrun the fortified post, raised Hizbullah's flag there, and killed or wounded all the defenders. The IDF commander in Lebanon, Brig.-Gen. Eli Amitai, stressed that the attack had been repulsed by the SLA troops manning the position, with the assistance of the IDF.

IAF gunners pounded the area with a barrage of artillery fire and there were reports that IAF helicopter gunships also gave support in thwarting the assault and forcing the gunmen to retreat.

The terrorists did manage to plant a Hizbullah flag, but only near the base of the reinforced ramparts surrounding the post.

Amitai praised the determination and courage of the SLA soldiers in defending the post. The fact that four SLA soldiers were

wounded was proof that they had stuck to their guns and remained at their posts, he said.

He noted that the commander of the Hizbullah assault force and three other terrorists were among those killed and that their bodies had been left in the field when the rest of the Hizbullah gunmen retreated.

It was the second time recently that Hizbullah has abandoned the bodies of its own fighters. The previous incident occurred last Tuesday when two gunmen were killed in a clash with members of an IDF paratroop unit near Wadi Saluki in the central sector of the security zone.

Amitai told reporters in the North last night that the IDF and SLA soldiers were all wounded by shrapnel from Hizbullah mortar fire during the course of the exchanges.

Continued on Page 4

Computer TKOs Kasparov

NEW YORK — It was a dramatic chess match, the first time a computer has beaten a world chess champion. Kasparov, the world's top chess player, lost to IBM's Deep Blue supercomputer in a match that was a 2-2 tie.

The match was a psychological test for Kasparov, who had never lost to a computer before. He was the first human to lose to a computer in a match.

The match was a 2-2 tie, with Kasparov winning the first two games and the computer winning the last two.

Kasparov won the first match against Deep Blue in February 1996 by 4 points to 2. But after that defeat, IBM engineers retooled Big Blue, returning with a machine that was able to think twice as fast as its predecessor.

"One hundred years from now, people will say this day was the beginning of the Information Age," said C.J. Tan, head of the Deep Blue team. "Historically for mankind, this is like landing on the moon or being the first human to climb Mt. Everest."

Kasparov and Big Blue split the first two games of the match, then played to draws in Games 3, 4 and 5.

Despite his loss, Kasparov takes home a loser's purse of \$400,000. IBM keeps its winner's share of \$700,000 and said it will put the money toward continued research.

The Deep Blue team will also get the \$100,000 Fredkin Prize, established 17 years ago at Carnegie Mellon University, to be given the first time a computer beat a world chess champion in a match.

Early work on computers and chess was done at Carnegie Mellon in the late 1950s, spawning computer science professor Herbert Simon to predict in 1957 that within 10 years, a computer would beat the top human chess player.

"Let's see: I was only off by a factor of four," Simon, who won the Nobel Prize in economics in 1978, told the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*. "That's better than the weatherman does, isn't it?"

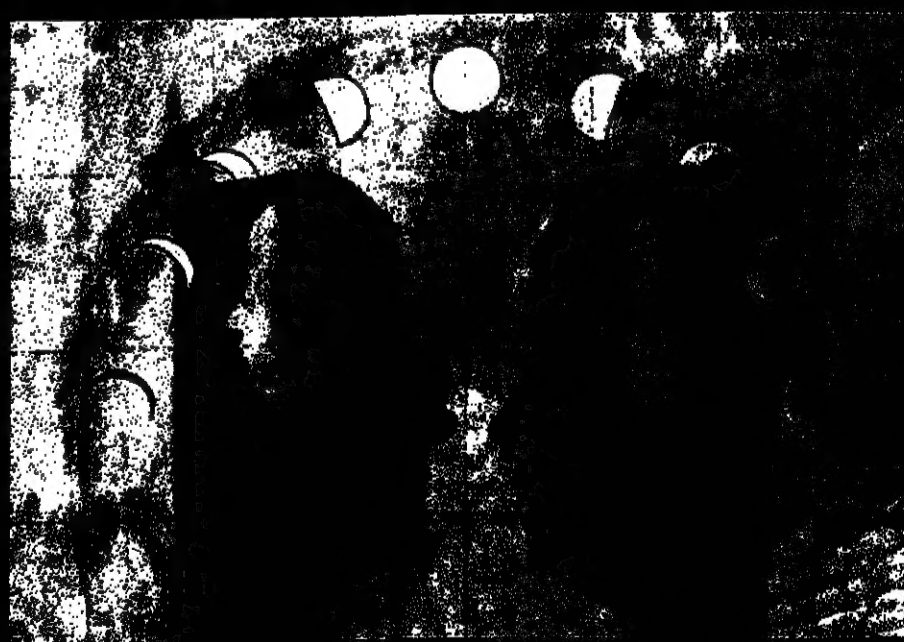
After Kasparov resigned, he shrugged and bolted from the table, visibly upset.

Does the machine's victory signal that a computer has become smarter than man? Not according to author Pamela McCorduck, who has written on advanced computers.

"What does it mean to be smarter? Of course, [the computer] can calculate faster," she said. "When we have a computer chess champion, what we have is we have a computer that plays superb chess. Period. There is a myth we have that playing chess is somehow the key to human intelligence."

A friend of Kasparov's, Michael Khodarkovski, said this was the first time Kasparov has ever lost a chess match. A 1996 chess championship match between Kasparov and then-champion Anatoly Karpov was historic, with Kasparov being defeated.

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He taught us all that communal leadership need not be achieved at the expense of family and "mentchlechkeit."

Shlomo Riskin, Dean.

We mourn the passing of

CHARLES H. BENDHEIM

who inspired our work.

The Gimmel Foundation

ברוך ד"ר האמת

Israel College of Technology for Women
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Extends its condolences to the Bendheim family and to Klal Yisrael on the passing of

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A leading benefactor of Torah and education in our time.

המקום יתום אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

We deeply mourn the loss of our dear friend and *mehtan*

CHARLES BENDHEIM ז"ל

Our heartfelt sympathy to our daughter-in-law and sister-in-law Keren B. Levine, and to Els and the entire family.

Fray and Harold Levine
Cindy and Abe Steinberger
Shani and Charles Levine

We deeply mourn the passing of

CHARLES BENDHEIM ז"ל

and extend our sincerest condolences to the esteemed family.

המקום יתום אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים
ולא תוסיפו לדאבה עוד

The management and staff of
Chaim Cohen & Co., Certified Accountants



Bernard and Margrethe Zimmer and Family together with
The European Committees for
Shaare Zedek Medical Center, Jerusalem
deeply mourn the passing of

CHARLES H. BENDHEIM

We extend our sincere condolences to his beloved wife, Els Bendheim-Salomon, sister, Gertrude Herlands Engelberg, children, great-grandchildren and the entire family on their great loss

המקום יתום אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

To the family of

CHARLES BENDHEIM

who dedicated his life to Israel, the Jewish People and acts of Tzedaka

we extend our deepest condolences.

The Board and Staff of
Israel Policy Forum

ELGAR-MIGDAL INVESTMENTS LTD.

mourns the loss of

CHARLES H. BENDHEIM ז"ל

Ne'eman Yerushalayim

Member of the Board of Directors
for many years

Our sincere condolences to the entire family

המקום יתום אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies
mourns the loss of

CHARLES H. BENDHEIM ז"ל

a model of dedication to
Jewish education and community
and extends to the family the wish that
they be comforted among the mourners
of Zion and Jerusalem

המקום יתום אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

The passing of

JOHNNY FEINGOLD

is mourned by his family
and friends.

With great sorrow we announce the untimely
passing of our member

IVAN KATZ

beloved son, husband, brother and father of

Vered Katz Sam and Bernice Katz
Tal and Dana Debbie and Sharon

Mourners will assemble at "Moadon Asam"

Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael on Tuesday, May 13, 1997
(6 Iyar, 5757), from 4:30 p.m. for the funeral at 5:15 p.m.

Belt Kibbutz Ma'agan Michael

With great sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved

POLA SCHONSTEIN

The funeral procession will leave tomorrow, Wednesday, May 14, 1997,
at 11:00 a.m. from the house of the deceased, 17 Sprinzak Street, Holon,
and the funeral will take place 11:45 a.m. at the Holon Cemetery.

Shivah at the home of the deceased.

Mourners:

Her son and daughter-in-law: Danny and Maxine Szeftel
Her sister and brother-in-law: Sarah and Izy Milkis
Her grandsons: Shawn, Debby, Jonathan and Dylan
Her nephews: Rivka and Dalya

With great sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved
husband, father and grandfather

DAVID MEYER BIDERMAN

Caesarea - London

The funeral will take place on Wednesday, May 14, 1997,
at 10:30 a.m. at the Caesarea Cemetery.

The shiva will be held at Ha'alon 6, Caesarea.

Wife: Pearl

Daughter and son-in-law: Ruth and Andy Gilad
Grandchildren: Tamar and Jonathan

CHARLES H. BENDHEIM

The YESHIVA UNIVERSITY FAMILY mourns the passing of a
longtime friend, a distinguished philanthropist and communal leader,
a benefactor who with his wife Els, served on YU's Board of Trustees
for over three decades and was honorary board chairman of our
affiliated Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary.

We extend heartfelt condolences to the children,
Dr. Judi (and Rabbi Harris) Gedalia, Jack C. (and Dr. Giti B.)
Bendheim, Philip E. (and Donna) Bendheim, Debra (and Rabbi Barry
L.) Eisenberg, Aviva (and Marvin) Sussman, Edna (and Aver)
Zussman, and Karen (and Dr. William) Levine; sister, Mrs. Gertrude
Herlands Engelberg; grandchildren, great-grandchildren,
and the entire family.

May they be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Dr. Norman Lamm, President, Yeshiva University

Olivr Corporation Ltd.

Its officers and staff, mourn the loss of

**CHARLES CHAIM
HACOHEN BENDHEIM** ז"ל

Board member and cofounder, whose wisdom, guidance and
support contributed greatly to our success.

We join in the family's sorrow.

**Holiday road toll:
3 dead, 130 injured**

By DAVID RUDGE and Tim

Three people were killed and scores were injured in road accidents over the holiday. Police reported a total of over 90 road accidents, in which over 130 people were injured, throughout the country from Sunday until last night.

On Independence Day morning, on Haifa's main coastal road, Sderot Habaganah, a car travelling towards town swerved out of control and struck and killed 19-year-old Vadim Idelchik, who was standing in the middle of a traffic island.

The car, whose driver and a passenger were lightly hurt, also hit another vehicle. The injured were taken to Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

A four-year old boy, Aviad Nissim Ben-Shmuel, was killed in Safed on Sunday afternoon as he was running from kindergarten to his father's car. He ran into the street from behind a parked car and was hit by a passing car, as his father, six-year-old brother, and classmates looked on.

His father rushed him to a Magen David Adom station,

where paramedics unsuccessfully tried to resuscitate him. Thousands attended the boy's funeral in Safed later that day.

Near Rishon LeZion on Sunday, a car struck and killed a motorcyclist a half-kilometer from Beit Dagan junction. A Magen David Adom ambulance crew pronounced him dead at the scene.

Ten people were lightly injured in a collision between a taxi and a commercial vehicle in Kiryat Gat. Among the injured were two nurses who were on their way to work at Barzilai Hospital in Ashkelon.

On Ashkelon Beach, Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav was lightly injured in the foot yesterday while trying to free his car from the sand. The car became stuck on the way to a family picnic, and the minister got out to help his driver free it.

Passing motorists in a jeep stopped and offered to try towing the car out. During the rescue attempt Katsav's car suddenly rolled back and ran over his foot. He was treated at nearby Barzilai Hospital, but was then taken for observation at Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem.

Eitan to reveal new assassination details

Likud faction and coalition chairman Michael Eitan is expected to reveal information which was apparently not known to the

Shamgar Commission, which investigated the murder of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, at a press conference today.

Liat Collins

CORRECTION

In the Independence Day supplement published on Sunday, the woman appearing in the Page 2 photo with Abba Eban and former US president Harry Truman was Vera Weizmann, the wife of Israel's first president, and not as reported.

**MK
Avraham
Stern dies**

By LIAT COLLINS

National Religious Party MK Avraham Stern died yesterday at the age of 62 after a long illness. Stern joined the Knesset after the last elections and was a member of the Interior and House committees. Born in Haifa, Stern served in the army in a Nahal group on Kibbutz Ein Hanatzev,



Avraham Stern. (Efraim Kilshuk)

which he made his permanent home. He will be buried at 5 p.m. at the kibbutz. He was the father of four.

Stern was a central figure in the national-religious world as a former secretary-general of Bnei Akiva, the political secretary of the Religious Kibbutz Movement, and an active member of the NRP. The NRP is expected to appoint Elkana Council Head Nissan Slomiansky as his replacement in the Knesset. Slomiansky, 51, was a founder of Gush Emunim.

ARRIVALS

Milade Ayrton, Switzerland, for the 27th Board of Governors Meeting of Ben Gurion University of the Negev.

We mourn the loss of our beloved

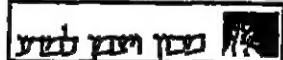
HANS H. WACHTEL ז"ל

of Vienna, Lima and Los Angeles

A Donor of the Aptowitz Foundation for Haifa

His wife: Edith née Aptowitz
His children: Professor Anthony (Tony) Wachtel-Aptowitz and wife, Chela Rabbani Susan (Tsutsi) Kaiser and husband, Rabbi Claudio
His brothers-in-law: Willi Z. Aptowitz and wife, Manzi Professor Walter Arlen-Aptowitz
His grandchildren: Cynthia, David, Yonathan, Raffi and Elisheva

May he rest in peace after a long and turbulent life



Weizmann Institute of Science
The Staff of the Information Systems - Computation Center
The Engineers Committee
mourn the passing of

LAWRENCE KALMAN ז"ל

and extend condolences to the family

LAWRENCE STEPHEN KALMAN

passed away on Sunday, May 11, 1997
at Kaplan Hospital, Rehovot, after a lengthy illness

Mourned by:
His wife, Barbara Hart
Father, Maxwell M. Kalman and the late Frances of Ottawa
Brother, Harold of Vancouver
Children, Trudy Deutch of Rehovot
Linda Nichol of Hong Kong
Josh of Jerusalem
Daniel of Jerusalem
David of Toronto
Grandchildren Noah and Lior Deutch,
and Joseph and Sarah Nichol

Our sincere condolences to

Josh Kalman

on the death of his

FATHER

Management and Staff
of the Jerusalem Post

To Attorney Daniel Kalman and family

Deepest sympathy upon the passing of your

Father

Davies, Korn - Law Office

The nation celebrates 49 years

The parks were packed, the beaches full, army bases and depots were overrun by visitors, as Israel celebrated its 49th Independence Day in traditional fashion - with barbecues, fireworks, picnics, plastic hammers, and festive prayers.

An army fly-past and naval sail-past were among the day's highlights. The air show included an aerobatic display by warplanes and maneuvers by transport planes and helicopters, while the navy paraded missile boats, patrol boats, and attack craft off the coast.

Defense Ministry museums were open free of charge, and attracted many visitors seeking a respite from the hot weather. But the smell of grilling meat from family barbecues permeated every park and nature reserve; in some locations, it seemed as if every square meter of grass was occupied.

Some found unique ways to celebrate the holiday. At the Meron state-religious school in north Tel Aviv, pupils and their parents together built a playground primarily from scrap materials they had collected.

The celebrations began Sunday night with festive evening prayers in synagogues, fireworks displays, and free entertainment on stages in neighborhoods all over the country.

The official opening ceremony took place on Jerusalem's Mt. Herzl, when the traditional beacons were lit by 13 persons chosen to symbolize the Zionist struggle to establish the state and marking 100 years since the First Zionist Congress in Basel.

The ceremony also marked the end of Remembrance Day for the fallen of Israel's Wars. At the



Soldier Zion Rahamim, on guard yesterday at Canada Park near Latrun, is treated to a grilled meat sandwich by the Konfino family from Ramle, who were among the estimated 1 million visitors to Jewish National Fund parks around the country. (Joe Malcom)

main memorial ceremony Sunday at the Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "Just

as the great sacrifice cannot be measured, neither can the size of the debt that the State of Israel owes its fallen.

"On this day, when the disputes are silenced, when there are no factions and camps, on this day when our pain is all one, we bow

our heads with great humility and gratitude and promise to make an effort to be worthy of the memory of the fallen." (Itim)

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

Holiday reassures country of its calling

By ABRAHAM RABINOVICH

The clackety-clack of a woman's heels was as obtrusive in the silence that had settled over the Rehov Ben-Yehuda Street pedestrian mall as a motorcycle starting up in Jerusalem on Yom Kippur.

The siren marking Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars on Sunday morning had brought sidewalk cafe sitters to their feet and froze pedestrians in their stride. Hundreds of people stood to attention at angles to each other, facing in whatever direction the siren had caught them. It was an odd tableau that suggested both the disconnectedness of individuals who go their own way and the discipline of a group adhering to a common call.

Halfway through the two-minute siren signal came the sound of the heels. A 30-ish woman appeared around a corner and hurried down Ben-Yehuda, the only mov-

ing thing in sight. Her dress and beret placed her in the Orthodox camp, her behavior in the haredi camp. She was not oblivious to the hundreds of heads turned in her direction. She seemed a bit frightened at her daring but even more defiant. When the siren had sounded a moment before, a haredi man on the street had hurried into the nearest building so as not to participate in this secular rite - but also not to give offense to those who did. The woman, however, seemed to be making a point of giving offense.

"This kind of ceremony is just not Jewish," a Mea She'arim resident said later, when asked to offer an explanation for the woman's behavior. There had been numerous reports of similar expressions of contempt by haredim during the day.

A perceived paganism and revulsion from it may explain the haredi attitude towards the secular practice but the woman's aggressiveness suggested

something deeper and perhaps more personal. It is a common assumption among haredim that seculars are a shallow, valueless people lacking in self-discipline and direction, an assessment, needless to say, that is precisely opposite to their assessment of their own culture. However, the Remembrance Day-Independence Day ceremonies constitute displays of secular discipline and secular calling, summoned forth by a siren rather than a shofar. Might it be that this spontaneous display of homage, the implied sense of community and the suggestion of a value system beyond the haredi ken subconsciously threaten their certainties?

The military display off Tel Aviv yesterday provided the seculars, in turn, with reassurances about their own concerns regarding national discipline and purpose. Only a few hundred sailors and airmen and a few dozen planes and ships participated in the sail-past and fly-by but the superb demonstration bespoke a

sense of strength and steely purpose not normally visible in daily life. Yesterday's military displays were modest, as befits an off-year that is marking time until the jubilee celebrations next year.

It is an off-year in the political sense, too. In the past, Independence Day celebrations have played a communal healing role in the wake of national traumas such as wars or acts of terror. There is neither trauma this year nor a sense of where the nation is heading. The prime minister says there will be no war and that he will achieve peace on his terms. The chief of staff warns of new tensions and says ominously that the public is closing its eyes to the dangers of missile warfare.

As reassuring as the sound of the warplanes yesterday was the sound of laughter and relaxed conversations in backyards and parks as families and friends marked the day. Whatever the politics of the moment, the spirit of the nation appears sound.

Weizman: IDF must have sophisticated weapons

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

President Ezer Weizman yesterday called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to find the way to fund the continued arming of the IDF with sophisticated weapons.

The defense establishment should not be subject to a controversial

public debate, Weizman said.

He spoke at a Beit Hanassi ceremony where he awarded certificates to 120 outstanding soldiers. The ceremony was attended by Netanyahu, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, and South Lebanon Army commander Gen. Antoine Lahad.

Hammer calls for end to hatred

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer pleaded for an end to "hatred between brothers" yesterday in a speech at the Israel Prize awards ceremony in Jerusalem.

Hammer said such hatred is "an internal enemy" threatening the country: "Is it conceivable for us to stand idly and watch the splitting of this country, which we are committed to keep whole? If we don't find a

way to neutralize this enemy, it is liable to be our downfall."

Hammer said that one of the sources of this hatred is "the certainty we each have that only we are right. Each of us has his own Suite of Israel in his heart; each his own Jewish people. Each believes he has the most correct view of Jewish history, and what he thinks is the best idea for its future."

Hammer said that as Israel begins its 50th year, "we must understand

that as a mature society, the Jewish people is not just what each of us wants individually.

Israel Prizes were awarded to 15 people in a variety of disciplines yesterday. A print journalism prize was not awarded; the Israel Prize Committee retracted its decision to grant the Israel Prize for Journalism to Me'ariv journalist Shmuel Schmitzer, after complaints about racism in his article on the aliyah of the Falash Mura.

NEWS

in brief

Firebombs thrown at border policemen

Two firebombs were thrown at a Border Police patrol near the Cave of Machpela on Sunday evening. No one was injured. Earlier in the day, a firebomb was thrown at a car with an Israeli license plate near Kafr Tajiv. None of the firebombs caused injuries or damage and soldiers searched both areas for the assailants. (Itim)

Schools to 'adopt' memorials to IDF fallen

A plan being drawn up by Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled will have the nation's memorials to the IDF fallen adopted by pupils, schools and youth groups, the Education Ministry announced over the weekend. The plan calls for the memorials, many of which are in need of a clean-up or repair, to be maintained by the youngsters. They will also learn about the particular site they have adopted, including its history and the history of the IDF units that fought at the site. "I have no doubt this will also be another element in the educational system's efforts to deal with the problem of young people's motivation to serve in combat units," Peled said. (Aryeh Dean Cohen)

IDF gets another female general

Drora Pe'er, head of the IDF's casualty division, has been promoted to the rank of brigadier-general, bringing to two the number of women generals in the IDF. Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak promoted Pe'er, 48, in appreciation of her work with bereaved families and disabled veterans, the IDF said. The other brigadier-general is Israela Oron, commander of the Women's Corps. No woman has ever achieved the rank of major-general. (Aryeh O'Sullivan)

Russian immigrant admits to spying for KGB

Anatoly Gendler, who immigrated here from Russia in 1981, admitted last week to spying on Israel for Russia and to having contact with a foreign agent, as part of a plea bargain approved by Tel Aviv District Court. Under the agreement, he will be sentenced to 11 years in prison. Gendler, an engineer who worked for the Israel Electric Corporation, told the court that if he had refused to work for the KGB, he would have endangered his relatives who were still living in Russia. (Itim)

Request to extradite killer of HU president

Israel has requested the extradition from the US of Haim Nagar, who is suspected of driving the truck that killed then-president of the Hebrew University Yoram Ben-Porat and his wife and son, on the Arava road in October 1992. Two years later, during his trial in the Beersheba District Court, Nagar fled to the US. He was arrested there two months ago. Nagar is also wanted in the US on suspicion of stabbing another Israeli citizen. (Bat Sheva Tsur)

Arabs, Druze demand educational programs

Adala, the Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, petitioned the High Court of Justice last week to order the Education Ministry to include Arab and Druze schools in special programs to help weaker sectors of the population.

There are 140 localities and neighborhoods where the programs are being conducted, the petition says, but only two of them are Arab and four are Druze. The petition says this is discriminatory. "If the purpose is to help weak pupils, how does a pupil from [the Beduin town of] Rahat not qualify while one from Herzliya does?" the petition asks. (Bat Sheva Tsur)

Yitzhar settlers move onto disputed hilltop

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The settlement of Yitzhar last night claimed that 10 families had moved into tents and makeshift houses on the hilltop, on which three houses were demolished by the authorities last week.

According to Yitzhar secretary Yehuda Liebman, the settlers have set up a communal kitchen and have enough people to hold a minyan "even twice a day." Liebman said that yesterday, Independence Day, the settlement was inundated with visitors who came to show their solidarity with the settlers. "There were tour buses, private cars, people came

from all over the country to show their support," he said.

Yesterday afternoon Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush visited the site and planted a pomegranate tree on the hilltop, said Liebman. The IDF has set up an encampment near the hilltop to monitor the situation and is refusing to allow any building materials to be taken there or permanent structures to be built.

"If someone had a difficult time in the past when there were just two families living here now they have 10," said an exuberant Liebman, adding that the settlers have gotten donations of money and food from supporters.

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Truth body spotlights dark days of ANC

By ANTON FERREIRA

CAPE TOWN (Reuters) - South Africa's Deputy President Thabo Mbeki said yesterday the ruling African National Congress (ANC) had nothing to hide about one of the darkest chapters in its history, the torture and execution of dissidents and spies.

He told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, however, that if it concentrated on ANC human rights abuses it ran the risk of portraying the party's liberation struggle in the wrong light.

"We have nothing to hide," he told a hearing of the commission, chaired by Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

But, he declared: "We must avoid the danger where, by concentrating on those particular and exceptional acts... we convey the impression that the struggle for liberation was itself a gross violation of human rights." The hearing was the first in which President Nelson Mandela's ANC leadership has been questioned in public about abuses in its camps in exile, most of them in the early 1980s, its decade-long feud with the Inkatha Freedom Party and the killing of civilians.

The ANC apologized in an opening statement to the commission for the deaths of civilians during its guerrilla war against the apartheid government and its security forces.

Mbeki led a high-level ANC delegation to the hearing, called to expand on an initial presentation by the party in August last year about its anti-apartheid guerrilla war.

He was accompanied by Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo, Transport Minister Mac Maharaj, Defense Minister Joe Modise, Deputy Defense Minister Ronnie Kasrils, Deputy Minister of Intelligence Joe Nhlanhla and other party officials.

The ANC has admitted executing at least 34 people in Angola alone during the 1980s. Some were mutineers and others were accused of spying for the apartheid government.

Commissioner Howard Vally asked the ANC delegation if it felt that the torture of suspected spies was justified.

"As a recipient of torture in 1964, I could never justify the use of torture," Maharaj replied, adding that party leaders had disciplined those responsible because the ANC did not want to use the same methods as the white government it was fighting.

Modise acknowledged that women combatants had been sexually harassed and abused in ANC camps in exile. "The ANC took steps to correct this, it was a very serious problem," he said.

On the ANC's feud with Inkatha, in which about 15,000 people died in the decade from 1985, Mbeki said his party had taken only defensive action.

"Some self-defense units did indeed act in defense of the people...not against Inkatha but against warlords," Mbeki said.

He said warlords were paid by the apartheid government to foment conflict.

The ANC statement repeated the party's view that its armed struggle against apartheid, launched in 1960, had been a just war and that civilians had never been deliberately targeted.

"(We) certainly had the capacity to kill many thousands of civilians," the statement said. "This would have been easy to do, but we never took this route."

It referred to several bombs which killed civilians in crowded city streets or bars and said: "We regret the deaths and injuries to civilians arising from armed actions. We apologize to the next-of-kin for the suffering and hurt."

It said two such bombings — one at a Durban bar that killed three civilians and wounded about 60, and another outside air force headquarters in central Pretoria — had been mistimed.

"Some recruits had sketchy political understanding of the nature of the struggle...some were never thoroughly under the discipline of the ANC...some attacks occurred because of anger."

"At times insufficient training could have resulted in situations in which (bombers) were not able to ensure that explosions took place at the intended time," the statement said.



Historic swim

Australian marathon swimmer Susie Maroney is assisted by an unidentified man moments after completing a 140 km. route in Key West, Florida, yesterday. Maroney became the first person to swim the Florida Straits from Havana. (Reuters)

Opposition takes Milan but Prodi satisfied

ROME (Reuters) - The opposition took control of Milan, Italy's second city, in local elections but wins for the governing center-left coalition in Turin and elsewhere pointed to a political draw ahead of key decisions on Europe and the economy.

Results yesterday from second-round mayoral run-offs in 77 cities and towns brought smiles all round from the national political blocs, allowing everybody to cry victory.

Despite defeat in Milan, where a center-right Freedom Alliance candidate won, Prime Minister Romano Prodi told Italian reporters in Sarajevo that he was content with the outcome.

"The elements of satisfaction prevail," the ANSA news agency quoted Prodi as saying.

"It is a consolidation for our future action," he said. "We will be able to march more rapidly towards our objectives." The vote was the first significant test of sentiment since Prodi took office one

year ago and a barometer of the public mood after 12 months of tough budgetary action to try to squeeze Italy into the start of Europe's single currency.

Milan, Italy's financial capital and previously held by the separatist Northern League, was the jewel in the crown in the contests, which included 10 big cities.

It went to the center-right Freedom Alliance whose candidate, industrialist Gabriele Albertini, beat center-left Olive Tree rival Aldo Fumagalli with 53.1 percent of the vote.

In Turin, Olive Tree incumbent Valentino Castellani was narrowly re-elected with 50.4 percent of votes after striking an electoral pact with the hard-left party Communist Refoundation.

Prodi relies on Refoundation for a parliamentary majority but ideological differences, especially on public spending and pensions, have made for a rocky relationship.

In all, the Olive Tree won four of the 10 big contests and the Freedom Alliance four. The Northern League, whose incumbent mayor in Milan was trounced in the first round on April 27, won in the northern towns of Lecco and Pordenone.

The center-left coalition is due to start talks with union leaders today over possible changes to social spending and many economists are urging a fresh overhaul of pensions, just two years after the last reform of the generous state system.

The Freedom Alliance and political commentators said the Turin result showed the Olive Tree could not succeed without the hard left.

They argued that the result in Turin, Italy's industrial capital and home of car giant Fiat, could strengthen Refoundation's hand in a looming showdown over reductions to welfare spending the government is contemplating to cut the budget deficit sufficiently to join Europe's monetary union.

After weekend of violence, Albanian leader pledges election

News agencies

TIRANA - After 10 Albanians died in a weekend of violence, President Sali Berisha affirmed yesterday that planned elections would take place, and that he supported a simultaneous vote on the return of the monarchy.

The elections are seen as vital to prevent Albania plunging once more into the violence and chaos that erupted in February and March over the collapse of pyramid investment schemes.

"I would assure (you) that elections will be held. Holding elections is vital for Albania," he told a news conference.

Berisha stopped short of naming a day for the election but said he would respect a deal brokered last

week by European envoy Franz Vranitzky that foresees a vote before the end of June.

Under the deal, signed by Albania's 10 main parties, a new election law had to be approved yesterday and passed by parliament this week so Berisha could announce the election day by May 15.

Under Albanian law, the president must call an election at least 45 days before voting takes place.

The Vranitzky accord also calls for the disbanding of so-called salvation committees, formed mostly in the south amid the lawlessness of February and March.

The political deal called for the groups to disband on May 14 but they plan to meet to discuss the issue only on May 16.

The groups are fiercely opposed to Berisha and blame him for the failed savings schemes.

Berisha said the committees issue would also be solved.

"Undoubtedly they were and still are a serious obstacle that will be overcome," Berisha also said he favored a referendum on the return of the monarchy to be staged the same day as the elections.

Exiled King Leka returned to Albania during the troubles. He hopes to take advantage of the disillusionment of ordinary people to convince them to restore a monarchy.

Berisha said he supported a continued republic but that the Albanian people should be able to express their view on the issue

through a referendum.

The death toll in a bloody weekend in the chaotic Balkan state rose to ten.

The killings are new examples of the lawlessness which has claimed several hundred lives since the rioting erupted in March. Estimates say up to a million weapons were looted from military arsenals, adding a deadly edge to the chaos.

In the southern port town of Vlora, the epicenter of the unrest, an unidentified man was murdered on Sunday in what local police called an execution.

Near Vlora, one man was killed after trying to stop his car being stolen while two men were killed at the railway station after gunmen raked their car with bullets.

Kuwait says US might seek to oust Saddam

KUWAIT (Reuters) - The United States might try to bring about the removal from power of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Kuwait's ambassador to Washington said in remarks published yesterday.

"Sheikh Mohammed al-Sabah said he has noted that the US policy was inclined to formulate a mechanism to bring about the downfall of the current Iraqi regime," the official Kuwait News Agency said of the envoy's remarks at a seminar by the agency.

The ambassador did not list Washington's steps to end Saddam's rule but said they included the tightening of the noose around the Iraqi leader's neck by the Congress which endorsed a bill urging the White House to try Saddam as a war criminal.

In March, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright affirmed Washington's intentions to back political opposition in Iraq and for the first time announced a clear commitment to improve ties with a new leadership in Baghdad.

The State Department later denied that Albright was urging the overthrow of Saddam.

Mother: Serial suspect is gay prostitute

SAN DIEGO (AP) - The man being sought for questioning in the slayings of four people in the Midwest and New Jersey supported himself by having sex with other men, his mother said.

Mary Ann Cunanan of Eureka, Illinois, said in yesterday's *Chicago Sun-Times* that she believes her son Andrew was a "high-class homosexual prostitute."

The statement comes amid growing confusion over whether Cunanan was a friend of aspiring actor Duke Miglin, whose wealthy father was slain this month in what

authorities say could be a cross-country killing spree.

Bruce Kerschner, the owner of a gay bookstore in San Diego and an acquaintance of Cunanan, was quoted in *The Star Tribune* as saying Cunanan and Duke Miglin were friends.

Kerschner then called a news conference to deny that he knew of any such relationship.

Cunanan, 27, is charged with murder in the shooting of Minneapolis architect David Madison, 33, whose body was found May 3.

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WEIZMAN

Continued from Page 1

"We have reached the eve of the final status talks," he said. "We've always known they would be the most difficult stage... A lot more desire and a lot more understanding are needed."

"I was the icebreaker... but the ships are not getting ready today to move forward."

Later, addressing the diplomatic community at his annual Independence Day cocktail party, Weizman expressed the hope that

a Syrian ambassador would join in Israel's 50th anniversary celebrations.

As US peace envoy Dennis Ross stood at his side, Weizman added that it was time for "a more stable Middle East." He wished Ross success in his current round of diplomatic efforts.

Foreign Minister David Levy announced that he will meet US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in Washington on Friday.

US Ambassador Martin Indyk said that it is "up to both sides" to take advantage of Ross's current intensive efforts to get the talks

back on track. He said that confidence-building measures are required from both the Israelis and the Palestinians.

"I believe Ross can succeed if both parties remove the source of the crisis. I suggest that Israel resume talks with both the Palestinians and the Syrians," Egyptian Ambassador Bassiouny told reporters at Beit Hanassi.

"Syria has taken a strategic decision for peace, but won't agree to less than what Egypt got," a full withdrawal, Bassiouny added. Syria, he said, is "100 percent" ready for a full peace with Israel "within the terms of the Madrid conference."

'Zyklon' plates cause outrage

NORFOLK, Virginia (AP) - The Anti-Defamation League has asked state officials to recall the license plates that read "ZYKLON B" issued to a man convicted two years ago of painting racial slurs on a church.

Zyklon B was the cyanide gas used in the sham showers at Auschwitz and other Nazi death camps. The league said use of the name on a license plate violates state motor vehicle bans on "offensive" and "disparaging" content.

Samuel Kaplan, director of the local league office, said the plate not only offends Jews and other victims of the Holocaust, but soldiers who died fighting the Nazis. Kaplan said the plates were registered to Ryan Maziarka of Hampton.

Maziarka was convicted in 1995, when he was 19, of painting racial and religious slurs on the New Bethel Cathedral, a Hampton church with a predominately black congregation.

Maziarka was asked if he had a reaction to the league's effort. "Aside from the fact that freedom of speech and religion is dead in this country, no," he said.

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LEBANON

Continued from Page 1

Military sources noted that during the fighting, Hizbullah mortar crews again fired from inside villages north of the zone, in another flagrant breach of the Grapes of Wrath understandings. The IDF return fire was very cautious, to avoid causing any civilian casualties, they said.

Despite the rocky, brush-covered terrain, which provides excellent cover for attackers, the SLA troops manning the Soujoud outpost spotted the Hizbullah gunmen and raised the alarm.

Amrit said the Independence Day attack had probably been planned to help boost the morale of Hizbullah following recent heavy losses, but it failed.

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Iran quake death toll rises to 2,400



A family gathers round the body of a relative this weekend, killed during the massive earthquake that struck Iran.

(Reuters)

News agencies

ABIZ, Iran — Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani yesterday interrupted a tour of former Soviet republics to visit areas in eastern Iran struck by an earthquake that killed nearly 2,400 people, Iran's foreign minister said.

"Our president left Ashgabat (Turkmenistan) for the earthquake zone in Birjand," the foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, said. "He will give instructions to the local authorities on how to cope and deal with the crisis."

At least 4,000 people were killed or injured in the devastating weekend quake, state television said. Earlier government statements said that at least 2,400 people died in Saturday's quake, and it was unclear if the death toll had risen. As many as 6,000 had been reported injured by the government and relief workers, and 50,000 made homeless.

"According to the latest reports from the correspondents of the central news unit from the earthquake stricken areas, 200 villages have suffered between 20 to 100 percent destruction and unfortunately 4,000 of our compatriots have been killed or injured," the television said.

A huge relief effort was under way in the 100 km stretch between Birjand and Qaen, which was hardest hit by the quake. The region is dotted by poor villages and mud huts near

the Afghan border.

Convoys of buses, trucks and pickups rushed hundreds of volunteers over narrow dirt roads to the remote mountains in northeastern Iran. Iranian military aircraft — US-made C-130s and helicopters — flew food, clothes and medicine.

"There are some things that we can do," Rafsanjani said as he toured several stricken villages. "But there are things that we cannot do, like compensate the lives of your relatives."

Rafsanjani, who must step down this year in the May 23 elections at the end of his second term, promised that his government would help rebuild homes and provide interest-free loans as well as grants to families.

As his motorcade drove through the devastation, thousands mobbed his car, some clinging to the vehicle. Others chanted the traditional greeting, "Khoshamadi" or "Welcome."

At one point, Rafsanjani got out and hugged an old woman who lost her husband.

The quake struck with a magnitude of 7.1. Aftershocks rattled what was left standing, forcing tens of thousands of people to camp amid the rubble in the dusty streets.

In Abiz village on the foothills of the Shaskook Mountain, hundreds of villagers, many covered in dirt and blood, gathered around rubble where an old man said he heard a cry for help.

They dug frantically for an

hour, only to find a chicken that had somehow survived. Then they dragged out a mangled corpse to the wails of relatives who beat their chests and pulled their hair.

Then they heard another desperate cry.

Alireza Rayee, 32, was pulled from the rubble barely conscious, trapped for 27 hours. A man rushed to bring him water. Another wiped dirt from his face and fanned him with cardboard. "God has given my son a second life," shouted his mother, Fatemeh, crying and holding her son's head in her arms.

Rayee's rescue was a rare example of joy across a landscape shattered by the earthquake.

In Abiz, a poor village about 90 km east of Qaen, none of the 700 mud houses were standing. One-third of its 1,200 people were killed, villagers said.

In most villages, the streets had been transformed into rows of rubble. Survivors washed the bodies of their loved ones and buried them in mass graves. Volunteers handed out aid or dug through the collapsed structures with their bare hands to look for bodies.

Rayee said he thought he would die beneath the rubble in Abiz.

"But I prayed all the time that I was under there, and God answered my prayers," he said, grimacing from a broken shoulder.

Cheers as exiled archbishop returns to Zaire

KINSHASA (Reuters) — Archbishop Laurent Monsengwo, a prominent player in Zaire's drawn-out democratic transition, returned home yesterday to cheers from onlookers who see in him a way of averting a bloody battle for the capital Kinshasa.

Witnesses said Monsengwo, tipped by some as a possible key to a political settlement to Zaire's civil war, travelled across the Zaire River to the capital's port after arriving in neighboring Congo from Europe.

Supporters of ailing President Mobutu Sese Seko voted at the weekend to give Monsengwo back his old post as speaker of Zaire's transitional parliament, making him the constitutional successor to Mobutu in the event of death or incapacity.

Monsengwo has yet to say whether he will take the job.

But Laurent Kabila's rebel alliance, whose troops were last reported to be 200 km from Kinshasa, bitterly oppose the idea, threatening to attack the capital if he accepts.

Zaire's radical opposition, the other major political force in parliament, also opposes the idea. They walked out during Saturday's vote.

"I will only accept if I have national and international guarantees," Monsengwo told a news conference in Belgium on Sunday during a stopover on his way back to Kinshasa from the Vatican where he attended a conference. He did not elaborate.

"I will give a press conference in Kinshasa," he told journalists in Congo's capital Brazzaville yesterday.

Monsengwo, archbishop of Zaire's rebel-held third city of Kisangani, held the job of

speaker at the height of Zaire's promised transition to democracy.

Mobutu supporters, fearing his popularity with elections likely, joined forces with opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi's backers in 1995 to oust him. Tshisekedi supporters dismiss Monsengwo as "Mobutist."

Monsengwo is still popular in a country with a Roman Catholic majority.

Some diplomats and politicians say he could step in and provide Mobutu with a dignified exit. Others say he could act as a national mediator — a role he played as speaker until ousted in July 1995.

The Vatican has yet to give its blessing to the move but Monsengwo promised initiatives to find a peaceful settlement. He gave no details but said these aimed "at a transition which has consensus support and is quick."

Lebanese still divided over Syrian presence

BEIRUT (AP) — Barely a day after Pope John Paul II's weekend visit to preach Christian-Muslim reconciliation, the two communities yesterday remained at odds over a major dividing issue — the Syrian military presence here.

Christians, particularly Maronite Catholics, had hoped that the pope would issue a strong call for the withdrawal of an estimated 40,000 Syrian soldiers.

Muslims have supported the Syrian presence, saying it has helped Lebanon achieve unity.

John Paul noted the Christian fears, but did not explicitly endorse their demand during his 32-hour visit, his first ever to Lebanon.

During his trip, the pope called for reconciliation and forgiveness after the 1975-90 civil war, which saw brutal fighting between Muslim and Christian militias. Christians make up about 45 percent of Lebanon's 3.2 million people.

The pope also released a major document designed to unify and guide Lebanon's Catholic churches. It was a response to Lebanese bishops who met at the Vatican two years ago and demanded the departure of Syrian troops and Israeli forces, who occupy 10 percent of southern Lebanon.

John Paul stopped short of making such an explicit call.



Pope John Paul II talks with the Greek Orthodox Patriarch Ignatios in the Lebanese village of Haresa Sunday. (Reuters)

"I am aware of the current great difficulties: the threatening occupation of the south of Lebanon... the presence of non-Lebanese forces on the territory," he said in the document.

In a statement before heading back to Rome, the pope also called for safeguarding Lebanon's "territorial integrity." The pope's indirect reference to Syria's military presence in Lebanon satisfied neither right-wing Christians nor Muslims.

Dory Chamoun, an anti-Syrian Christian opposition leader, called the document "timid."

"It could have said that there are Syrian forces in Lebanon who should have left a long time ago," Chamoun told the Paris-based Radio Monte Carlo.

Mohammed Mehdi Shamseddine, spiritual head of the 1.2 million Shiites, Lebanon's largest sect, also told Radio Monte Carlo he differed with the Vatican on Syria's presence in Lebanon.

South Asia summit takes aim at tensions

MALE, The Maldives (AP) — A summit meeting of seven south Asian nations opened yesterday with calls to lift the world's poorest region from despair by ending military tension and promoting economic cooperation.

The summit was overshadowed by the first meeting in four years between the prime ministers of India and Pakistan, raising hopes of progress toward ending 50 years of hostility that has produced three wars. "We can't afford the continuation of tensions, military confrontation and escalating defense budgets," said Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

"We in South Asia must also

break out of the old," said Sharif in a speech to the other six heads of government. "There is no looking back on the wasted years of the past." Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral welcomed Sharif's remarks and offered a sweeping vision for turning the fledgling seven-nation trading bloc into a European-style economic community.

The Indo-Pakistan bilateral meeting caps a progression that began in March when senior diplomats ended a three-year suspension and resumed negotiations over their countries' problems, focusing on their rival claims to the Himalayan territory of Kashmir.

UK focus on Europe, not United States

LONDON (AP) — Declaring human rights are central to its foreign policy, Britain's new Labor government said yesterday it will be stricter about arms sales, and it also may seek economic sanctions against Nigeria.

In contrast with previous British governments, Foreign Secretary Robin Cook in a four-page policy statement made no specific reference to the United States, instead stressing Britain's membership of the European Union.

"I strongly believe that Britain will be a more valuable and a more valued ally of America if we do actually emerge as a leading partner within Europe," Cook said. "Because a Britain which does not have influence in Europe will be of less interest to Washington."

Cook, due in Washington soon, said there is a "strong personal chemistry" between Prime Minister Tony Blair and President Clinton.

With glitz reminiscent of Labor's election campaign, the policy presentation in an ornate ballroom at

the Foreign Office, the Lucarno Room, was preceded by a video extolling British exports, from the Rolls Royce engine to the arts.

On Europe, Cook said the Labor government will reverse the increasing isolation of the Conservative government, whose right-wing strongly opposed closer integration of the 15-nation EU.

"Some other nations are beginning to be more frank about their reservations (on closer union) than they needed to be when they could rely on Britain blocking everything anyone thought of," said Cook.

However, Labor shares many Conservative reservations about closer union. For example, Cook reiterated yesterday that it is unlikely Britain will be among the initial group of EU countries adopting the new single currency due to start in January 1999.

Mexico volcano spews ash

MEXICO CITY (Reuters) — Mexico's Popocatepetl volcano spewed out red hot rocks and a huge ash cloud early yesterday in one of the most intense eruptions for 14 months, authorities said.

Ash smothered houses and cars up to 60 km away from the active volcano's snow-capped crater, including in the industrial city of Puebla, a 1 million-plus populace 40 km west of Popocatepetl.

"It was one of the biggest puffs in terms of intensity since March 1996," the National Disaster Prevention Center said.

There were no immediate reports of deaths or injuries from this latest eruption which started at 8:45 p.m. local time Sunday and lasted 20 minutes, the center said.

Vulcanologists said the ash cloud fell so thickly on the flanks of the volcano that visibility was reduced to 50 metres.

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A question of honor

Shimon Peres insists he is not interested in honorific titles. This is precisely why Ehud Barak, the leading contender to replace Peres as Labor Party chairman, is right to oppose the moves to name Peres as the party's president at today's Labor Party convention.

Although a political novice, Barak, as befits a former IDF chief of general staff, is well aware that strength is not always found in numbers alone. A Labor Party headed by two active leaders, each pushing their own agenda, is a recipe for division, not unity. Labor members only have to look back to the long, barren years in opposition when Peres's rivalry with Yitzhak Rabin not only split the party, but detracted from Labor's attempts to oust the Likud. The new party chairman, due to be elected in just over two weeks' time, will want to focus on keeping Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in his sights, and not face the distraction of a party president conducting independent initiatives.

Many commentators have contrasted Peres's stubborn refusal to step down gracefully after losing his fifth general election with former British prime minister John Major's immedi-

ate and dignified exit after his recent trouncing at the polls. Major's resignation, however, was not merely an act of chivalry; it was the move of a man who knew he had no other option. The British Conservative Party does not tolerate losers; this is the party which removed from power the greatest post-war British premier, Margaret Thatcher, when it was feared she would lead the party to defeat at the polls.

While politics here often lacks the surface civility of British politics, it more tellingly lacks the ruthlessness needed to persuade aging leaders that their time has come. For as long as Peres is convinced that a large faction of his party is still willing to follow his lead, he will not depart the stage. The Labor Party convention, if it has the party's best interest at heart, would do well to advise Peres, an avid bibliophile and man of letters, to look up Oliver Cromwell's 1653 address to the Rump Parliament: "You have sat too long here for any good you have been doing lately....Depart, I say, and let us have done with you. In the name of God, go!"

Truth hurts

Most people know that in struggles for freedom or independence one side is always black and the other white. They also know, but rarely admit, that this is a crock of mythology.

The metaphor of "black and white" has added significance in the case of South Africa. No racial pun is intended for, indeed, in the battle of the nation's majority against the evil system of apartheid, it was the racist whites who were black in moral terms and it was the struggling black freedom fighters whom the world painted as white as angels.

The unique exercise in self-examination (some cynics have said self-flagellation), which is known as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, is being watched with some bemused curiosity by the rest of the world. It is not quite a Nuremberg trial conducted by the winners, neither is it a Salem witch trial, nor a Spanish Inquisition. More than anything it resembles an open public confession. This is not confession in the old communist "reeducation" sense but, more positively, in the Roman Catholic sense of sinners humbling themselves, admitting their wrongdoings, and seeking forgiveness.

While the white practitioners of apartheid atrocities were trooping before the commission with their finally admitted tales of evil that they had spent decades barefacedly denying, there were indeed worries that this was a somewhat one-sided process. History teaches us that after a period of certainties, revisionism is sure to follow.

South Africa, with the Truth Commission, has opted for instant revisionism and this weekend it was the ANC's turn to confess its sins. Led by the retired archbishop and Nobel laureate Desmond Tutu, the commission is laying before public scrutiny all abuses by all sides during nearly 40 years of white-minority rule. The aim is to promote reconciliation, but the jury is still out on that. But like a troubled couple who decide to confess all to clear the air, the reveal-

ing of hitherto unknown infidelities could backfire into causing worse problems.

The South African panel can grant amnesty to people who admit to having committed crimes deemed to be politically driven, an offer which is soon to close. Hence high-ranking officials from opposing sides of apartheid have been rushing to file for amnesty under a vast program to pardon those crimes. President Nelson Mandela's heir apparent, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki, as well as the defense and transport ministers, were among some 400 current officials who presented applications to the Truth Commission this weekend.

With the amnesty deadline closing at midnight yesterday, some 8,000 applications were faxed in from across the country. While those on the ANC and former white security forces side of the fence entered into the spirit of the reconciliation process, the most notable black leader still in denial remained Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi. He said he never killed anyone or ordered anyone killed. Whether he personally killed anyone is a matter for the law - but to suggest he bears no responsibility for the thousands who died in fighting between Inkatha and the ANC is a simple blatant lie well outside the spirit of the Truth Commission.

There are many others on the black and white sides who should have been more open, but they are mostly of little consequence any longer. Buthelezi has always appeared as the reluctant democrat, and now he is the reluctant reconciler. Once again he has turned into a spoiler and there remains the suspicion that his support for a united South Africa is equally reluctant. It is high time Buthelezi came off the fence and out of the shadows of half-truths. As long as he doesn't, the suspicion will remain that he is the old-fashioned African tribal chief who could one day lead South Africa down the old-fashioned, and destructive paths the continent is all too familiar with.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NEGATIVE LANGUAGE

Sir, - I am a British citizen, but have been resident in Ethiopia for many years. Recently, I was visiting Israel and had the opportunity of reading several editions of your paper, which included articles about complaints of racial discrimination by Ethiopian Jewish immigrants and also assurances that everything possible was being done by the Israeli authorities to overcome this.

However, after reading your editorial of April 6, "Zaire's unknown fate," it seems to me that there may be an underlying negative attitude towards Africans in Israel. I felt that the sentence, "On Africa's past record, no one is living in much hope that he [Kabila] will be any better than any other rebel leaders the continent has

been cursed with," was a very negatively loaded sentence.

I agree that the situation in Zaire is a desperate one and that some rebel leaders on the continent have done more harm than good for their countries, but to include the whole continent and to use the derogatory term "cursed with" could be interpreted as being racially discriminatory. In Ethiopia, a one-time rebel leader is in power now and while not everything is sweetness and light, things are much better than they were under the last regime.

If Israel is serious about non-discrimination, its newspapers need to reflect this in the language their writers use.

MARY J. BREEZE

Addis Ababa.

GENOCIDE

Sir, - As an Armenian Jerusalemite, I am truly grateful for Yosef Goeli's thoughtful essay of May 4, "The Armenian genocide," on the tragedy of my people in 1915. He points out quite properly that, because the "civilized world" failed to react strongly to the Armenian genocide, Adolf Hitler thought it also would "shrug off" the mass killing of Jews.

Our peoples have much in common in our grief and in our determination that such inhumanity never occur again. It is appropriate for us to remind the world of both the Holocaust and the genocide. It

is also important for us to recognize that the tragedies of other peoples, such as in Zaire and Rwanda, must not only be condemned, but equally prevented.

Armenians and Jews are often able to articulate concerns with clarity and passion. In Jerusalem, where survivors of the genocide live side by side with survivors of the Holocaust, both have an opportunity and a responsibility to stand together and speak out in unison.

DR. HARRY B.V. HAGOPIAN

Jerusalem.

FIGHTING TERRORISM

Sir, - The US states it is pleased with Peruvian president Fujimori's successful use of force which involved the execution of all the hostage-holding terrorists in Peru. Analyses by experts (Nightline, April 22) conclude that Fujimori was successful in dealing with the terrorists because he laid out a hard line and stuck to it, always refusing the terrorist demand to release other terrorists from jail. Alvin Adams, a former US ambassador to Peru, stated (Nightline, same date) that the very first lesson we learned from this action is: "don't reward terrorism."

The government of Israel, which seems to have lost its way from the days when it led the world in the business of fighting terrorism, can now take lessons from Fujimori. So can Clinton, who daily pushes Israel to reward the terrorist Arafat.

LEON PERLSWEIG

Los Angeles.

LEGAL

Sir, - Mr. Doug Wagner (Letters, April 17) misinterprets UN Resolution 242. This resolution calls for "withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in recent conflict," not from all the territories. This wording was deliberate. Therefore Israeli settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are not "illegal."

DR. JACOB ROSIN

Netanya.



Resistance to IDF reform

The fatal helicopter accident over She'ar Yashuv and its subsequent investigation have focused attention on the urgent need for structural reform in the army.

It is almost 50 years since the establishment of the IDF, years in which new weapons systems and technology have dramatically altered the art of warfare.

Yet reforms within the IDF in the intervening years have been few and far between. The changes introduced came only after lengthy arguments, and in the wake of painful operational experience.

The IDF entered the Yom Kippur War structured essentially as it had been during Israel's War of Independence in 1948. The different combat branches of the ground forces - armor, infantry, artillery, and engineers - were organized independently of each other without an integrating framework, except for the General Staff.

The introduction of tactical missiles onto the battlefield required a coordinated effort by the different ground force branches, an effort for which the IDF was inadequately prepared at the time.

Yet it took 10 years more and a ministerial directive to establish the Ground Forces Command, with the mission of integrating training, weapons development and weapons acquisition for the four ground force branches.

Although this step, the first major reform in the IDF's history, was intended to be followed by an even more far-reaching integration of most ground forces activities, the situation has remained, to this day, just as it was when first implemented in 1983.

The second major organizational reform of the IDF was the establishment of the Civil Defense Command in the wake of the Gulf War in 1991.

MOSHE ARENS

It had become obvious years earlier that the acquisition of ballistic missiles by Arab armies posed a serious threat to our civilian population; also that the regional operational commands would, in time of war, while busy with front-line activities, be incapable of handling adequately the problems arising from attacks on civilian targets in the rear.

Yet it was only after missiles

Army top brass worries more about its authority being infringed than the needs of the times

were launched against the Tel Aviv and Haifa areas that this necessary step was taken, based on a ministerial directive to the General Staff of the IDF.

The introduction of helicopters for troop and ground vehicle transportation and, more recently, for the attack of ground targets has revolutionized ground warfare by providing a third dimension to the ground battlefield.

In appreciation of this role for the helicopter, the US armed forces organized their helicopter units as an integral part of the ground forces.

The IDF, in contrast, on the theory that anything that flies must be part of the Air Force, dispersed its helicopter units within the existing IAF framework.

The result was the absence of an organization that could provide the army's helicopter forces with training, operational procedures, development, and equipment acquisition in an integrated manner.

This lack of uniform operational

procedures in the IDF helicopter squadrons became painfully apparent in the fatal helicopter collision over She'ar Yashuv; it may, indeed, have contributed to the accident.

It is gratifying that the committee investigating the accident focused on this problem. However, the proposed palliative - appointing a senior helicopter pilot from the IAF staff - far from provides an adequate solution to the problem.

This is the minimum required: All IDF helicopter squadrons need to be organized as a separate helicopter unit within the IAF, commanded by its most senior helicopter pilot.

This unit, moreover, must be given overall responsibility for helicopter training, operational procedures, development of tactics, and equipment acquisition.

Over the years, it has become clear that the IDF and its senior commanders tend to view any proposal for organizational reform as a potential infringement on their authority. This has meant great inherent resistance to any proposed changes.

Therefore unless specific steps are taken to impose a periodic review of the IDF's organizational structure, one can expect the present setup - regardless of developing technology and changing times - to be cast in concrete.

Technology continues to impact on the battlefield, and there is a constant need to ensure that the IDF adapts itself organizationally, on a real-time basis, to the resulting changes.

It is thus essential that the IDF be specifically charged with the task of keeping its organizational structure up to date, with an annual review by the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

The writer is a former defense minister.

Arafat's execution policy

The Israeli government announced today that Israeli Jews who sell land to Palestinians will face execution. "The death penalty will be imposed on anyone convicted of selling one inch to Palestinians," said Israel's justice minister in an interview. "Even middlemen involved in such deals will face the same penalty."

Change a few words, and that is a real dispatch from Jerusalem by the Associated Press. The warning of execution was made - but by the Palestinian Authority's minister of justice, Freih Abu Medein.

It was a warning to all Palestinians, inside its present control or not. It should be taken as a different warning by Israel and those who wish it well.

Imagine the worldwide denunciation had it been a warning of execution to Jews from Israel, for selling land to Palestinians.

America and Europe erupt in justified fury. President Clinton is bombarded by press questions, and does not conceal his shock. Almost every newspaper and TV news program leads with it, carries editorials, columns, commentary. There are talk shows.

Imagine the meetings at the UN, the boycott demands of the Moslem countries, the mock horror of the budding China-Russia alliance. Christian church groups are publicly horrified; so too the whole world of Jewish organizations.

What happened after the real death warning was dispatched around the world? Why, nothing. No government, including those financially holding up the Palestinian Authority, said anything.

Nothing from the American Friends Service Committee, the National Council of Churches and

A.M. ROSENTHAL

other church groups normally solicitous of Palestinian rights; no angry faxes flooding in from Jewish groups, except the alert Anti-Defamation League. From the UN, nothing.

US newspapers I saw printed it not at all, or barely. I saw one editorial of protest, in the *New York Post*.

Though the world refused to witness, the death warning was probably the most important statement and jihad.

As I began writing this, I became aware of the UN's Geneva meeting, and the *New York Times* article from Jerusalem on torture of Palestinians by Israeli interrogators.

Torture is wrong and unacceptable, any place, any time. Friends of Israel understand the terrorist danger in which it lives perpetually. They know that torture of Arabs by Arab governments is unspeakably worse. For these regimes, it is routine, always was.

But Israel is different. Using torture demeans its most important asset next to its defense force - civilized democratic decency.

But I will not allow the coincidence of the torture reports to prevent me from calling attention to the execution policy and what it should tell us all.

Before the execution policy was announced, we knew Arafat was creating a Palestinian despotism. What we did not know, or did not want to believe, was how readily, how silently, the world would accept and welcome such a Palestine.

The world, including the West, cares nothing for Arab human rights, unless violated by Israelis. Nor does it care that every despotism on Israel's borders is by nature and intent one more security threat to Israel. Now the silence informs those who do care.

So whatever the result of negotiations, Israel, while perfecting its own democracy, will have to remain at arms until the Palestinians achieve theirs.

That will not be easy for Israel - but then it never has been.

(Courtesy of the New York Times)

The writer is a political scientist.

Peres's place

SUSAN HATTIS ROLEF

Labor Secretary-General Nissim Zivli is doing his party a major disservice by insisting that today's party convention appoint Shimon Peres party president.

Nor that Peres doesn't deserve the title. But in his present state of mind, he is more likely to do harm with it than good.

It isn't easy for anyone who has held power, especially over several decades, to step down gracefully. It is supposedly easier in a place like the US, where a president knows that his period in office is constitutionally limited to eight years; or Britain, where party leaders know that after an electoral defeat - certainly after two - they are expected to vacate the field.

But beyond Israel's lack of rules and norms in this respect, Peres poses a special problem.

Despite his impressive list of achievements, he is an unfulfilled man. He has never won an election; his two times as premier, in 1984-86 and 1995-96, were both attained by default - the second time around he was handed the premiership by assassin Yigal Amir.

When it comes to sharing glory, Peres seems incapable of magnanimity. The most extreme example has been his insistence on taking all the credit for Oslo, without mentioning Yossi Beilin, initiator and facilitator of the process up to the signing of the Declaration of Principles.

It seems Peres truly considers himself head and shoulders above everyone else - even though the flip side of his impressive achievements is a recurring blindness to reality occasioned by his own vanity.

For example, so full is Peres of his New Middle East vision, admittedly a grand and worthy one, that he has never bothered to

As Labor Party president? No, I don't think so

check on how the Arabs feel about it (ambivalent, at best).

Peres also refuses to face the fact that his 20 more years of experience notwithstanding, all four candidates for the party leadership - Ehud Barak, Yossi Beilin, Ephraim Sneh and Shlomo Ben-Ami - are way ahead of him in terms of intellect, education and broad analytical capabilities.

FINALLY, in his old age Peres has turned into something of a demagogue.

Shamelessly he accuses Barak of seeking to turn Labor into a one-man party, into something foreign and unrecognizable.

But Peres's problem is not that Barak is an ambitious man (who else would want to jump into those filthy, shark-ridden political waters?) but that this most highly-decorated of Israeli generals is an independent, strong-willed and self-assured individual who doesn't feel the need of a further period of apprenticeship under Peres.

Peres, moreover, is accusing Barak of seeking to destroy a party that no longer exists, certainly not in the form it existed 20 and more years ago.

The party has become what it has because of the way society has developed, and because of the institution of the primaries system.

Barak is merely a product of this change, and not its initiator. But, like all ambitious men, he could be dangerous left to function in a system devoid of checks and balances.

Peres doesn't understand that he is not the one who should be "checker and balancer" but Beilin, Haim Ramon (don't write him off yet), and other younger Laborites.

Unlike Peres, the members of this younger leadership generation have accepted the new Israeli reality without looking back nostalgically to a past that doesn't necessarily deserve it; they, in fact, were among the architects of the party's democratization, which enabled them to skip over the gray "generation of the wilderness" that Peres himself so effectively castrated.

In sum, the party needn't feel sorry for Peres just because he feels sorry for himself.

It should respect him, it should acknowledge his place in history - but, at the same time, it should tell him that the time has come to go home.

It will be a great pity if today's party convention focuses on Peres's own feelings rather than on the tasks ahead, notably getting rid of our current government.

The writer is a political scientist.

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The Unreal Thing

Un-American Ugly Americans

By BARBARA CROSSETTE

ON the outskirts of Mandalay, Myanmar, the heart of Burmese religious and cultural life, a kind of California suburb is taking shape, with expensive detached houses in landscaped gardens walled off from the city's less prosperous reality. A shopping mall can't be far behind.

Another sign of the Americanization of Asia? Not so, say the neighbors. The big white mansions of concrete and glass are neo-Thai in their inspiration, built with Burmese and Chinese money, at least some of it garnered from narcotics and the smuggling of Burmese gems and timber. Everything about this phenomenon is Asian. So are the construction companies clawing up virgin rain forests to build golf courses in Malaysia and the studios in Hong Kong and Bombay that make films violent enough to startle Hollywood — and to provoke a burgeoning Asian backlash against perceived threats to family values and decency.

Source of Evil

It used to be that when things started to unravel in almost any Asian country it was easy to finger the culprit: Americanization. Are families falling apart? Dig out the American divorce rates. Kids joining gangs? Talk about Los Angeles and American movies. Rock groups replacing the gamelan? Must be the imported TV programs. The environment in ruins? Blame New York's air conditioners. AIDS? That's a Western disease, the Thais once said confidently as more and more warehouse-sized "massage parlors" opened.

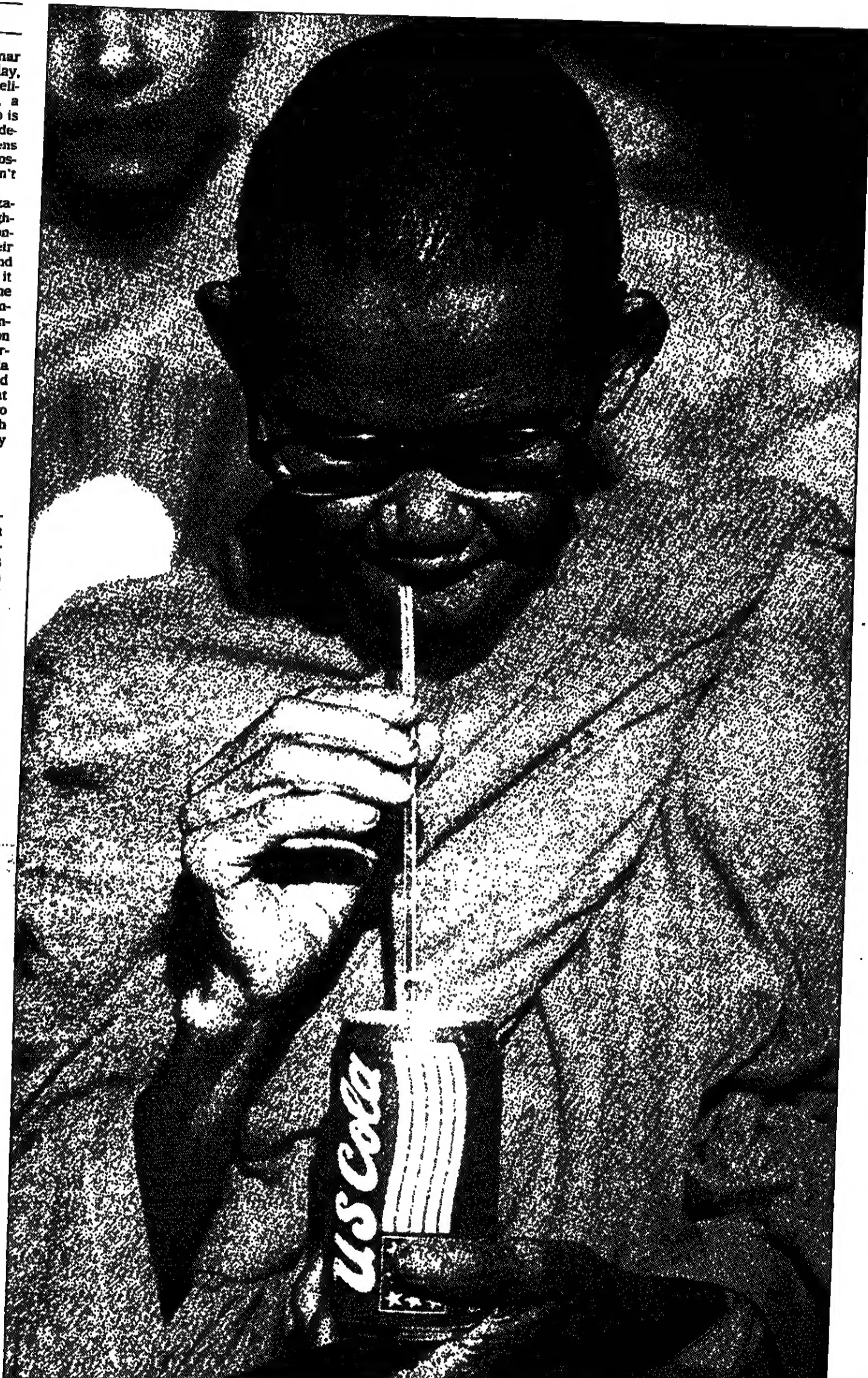
Now in cities, towns and satellite-dashed villages across Asia — and in other parts of the world where rising incomes and greater access to goods and information are breeding consumerism and speeding modernization — it is getting much harder to hold the West, particularly the United States, responsible for assaults on local cultures.

Worldwide communications — especially satellite television, the fax machine and the Internet — hasten the narrowing of cultural differences. Not everything novel comes from the

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In Beijing: not made in America.



Cambodia, too, has a growing consumer society that is supplied more or less locally; a monk drinks cola of uncertain origin.

Accidental Public Policy
Winners lose and losers win in the great orphanage debate.

By Nina Bernstein

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Traffic Tie-ups
As automobiles proliferate, massive traffic problems are becoming the norm.

By Keith Bradsher

3

The New New Russian Woman

Communism proclaimed sexual equality. Democracy brings a feminine mystique.

By Alessandra Stanley Photographs by Jason Eskenazi

2



For Africa's Dictators, No Exit Is Graceful

By HOWARD W. FRENCH

FOR weeks now, drawn as if by a sordid but captivating piece of theater, Africa and much of the world have watched the power of Mobutu Sese Seko, the continent's longest reigning dictator, slip like sand through his fingers.

After more than three decades of solitary power, at age 68 the once arrogant dictator is now visibly dying of prostate cancer, his body withering in pace with his failing hold on Zaire. Mr. Mobutu is said to be mentally sharp, but he can barely stand. In name he is President still, but his writ scarcely extends beyond this city surrounded by rebels who have advanced across Africa's third-largest country, chasing a national army that loots but almost never fights.

But obscured by the drama is a larger struggle taking place across Africa between the two types of politics prevalent on the continent, one old and one new.

The old model was exemplified by Mr. Mobutu, a man who appropriated for himself the title of marshal, openly presumed to rule for life, and may yet succeed, even if he must drag his country down with him. The



Associated Press



Romero

Zairians cheer a rebel, above. A bank note with President Mobutu Sese Seko's image lies discarded.

other, democratic, is still in its infancy, but taking root throughout much of Africa.

For a reminder that the dictator mode still holds ample sway, one had to look no farther last week than the chubby central African summit that Mr. Mobutu attended in Libreville, Gabon. Gathered around the ailing Zairian in his leopard-skin cap were other leaders like the host, Omar Bongo, installed by France as President of Gabon in 1968, and Teodoro Obiang Nguema, of Equatorial Guinea, who just last year rigged his way to a 98 percent election victory.

Each of these men seems as determined to stay in power as Mr. Mobutu was, and the best concession they were able to wrest from him was a commitment not to be a candidate in any future vote. Needless to say, Zaire's rebels, led by Laurent Kabila, a lifelong opponent of Mr. Mobutu who stands poised to capture Kinshasa, were not appeased.

For growing numbers of African intellectuals, Mr. Mobutu's dictator peers — and the foreign powers that have long indulged or supported them — would do well to study the lesson of his demise by armed insurrection: Block democratic political change, and eventually you will be violently swept away.

History Shows Cheaters Win

"Watching Zaire, you become very pessimistic," said Aliou Diallo, a diplomat from Guinea who heads the United Nations Development Program here. "There are a bunch of Zaires in miniature all around the continent, led by people who can win elections only by cheating and following a strategy just like Mobutu of 'après moi, le déluge.'"

While African governments where competitive elections have been held are more numerous than dictatorships for the first time in history, candidates for violent change — leaders who bar the way to peaceful opposition — are still strong across the continent. From tiny Togo to Nigeria, Cameroon and Kenya, they cling grimly to power, attacking critics and changing electoral codes according to their own whims.

Even under the harshest of these regimes, opposition groups have emerged. But under the weight of steady repression, civil society remains weak, leaving despairing populations to place their faith in people who offer rapid change, often by arms.

"What we have seen in Zaire, Cameroon, Kenya and a number of other places is that the longer a dictator's rule lasts, the more the political class fractures," said Michael Chege, a Kenyan scholar and director of African studies at the University of Florida. "Then along comes a man like Mr. Kabila, offering to finish off the dictator. The Kabilas are popular not because they are

Continued on Page 3

The World

Democracy in Russia: Women's Lib Is Just Cosmetic

By ALESSANDRA STANLEY

GLIMPSED on a street corner or subway, even the prettiest Russian girl looks severe, sullen or remote. Catch a Russian woman receiving guests at home, or at a party, and the transformation is almost hallucinatory. A stone-faced matron just back from the tractor assembly line will don a frilly frock, push her swollen feet into high heels and smile as she forces cucumbers, blini and vodka down a visitor's throat. A young girl will flirt, her mother will coddle and scold, and both will serve guests, particularly male ones, with traditional Asian deference.

The duality within Russian women is startling and, even in Moscow, the most cosmopolitan and affluent of Russian cities, inescapable. Seventy years of socialism, with its cramped communal apartments, work collectives, company-sponsored group vacations and constant surveillance and snitching, tore away a sense of privacy. Russian women created their own make-shift screens of privacy in public places — the glazed look of weary indifference.

Even today, privacy remains an unimagined luxury for most Russians. Women who share kitchens and bathrooms with strangers do not make a strong distinction between home and the outside world. In parks, on buses, in the mirrors of office buildings or theater foyers, they serenely and unself-consciously apply makeup and tease their hair. Necessity is the mother of uninhibitedness. Public bathrooms are rare, and the few that exist come without mirrors, sinks, paper or even toilet seats.

The grand experiment called Communism was supposed to blur individuality and spawn a New Man, but it mostly forged a New Woman. Soviet society empowered women to work outside the home, then dou-

bled their load, forcing them to hold down jobs and still take care of the children, the house and the bureaucratic tangles of everyday survival. Men were left free to live as slaves: childlike irresponsibility at home and total dependence on the state.

Six years on, democracy has brought economic opportunity to some, havoc for most, but so far it has done little to change the basic way men and women relate. Despite, or perhaps because of, 70 years of state propaganda about the equality of sexes, men and women here cling tenaciously to extreme sexual stereotypes. Women work like oxen to provide for their men and children, and still pride themselves on maintaining an extravagant form of femininity.

Femme Fatale Attraction

Women eagerly greeted the Western beauty products that flooded the market once the Soviet Union collapsed. Young or old, rich or poor, Russian women now spend a considerable amount of their disposable income on shampoos, depilatories, cosmetics and clothes. They have mostly ignored the kind of understatement and comfort now fashionable in the West. J. Crew is not a popular look in Moscow; the ideal is Nolan Miller, who designed the femme fatale clothes worn by Joan Collins in "Dynasty."

They eschew natural-looking blond highlights for vivid henna and improbable gold tresses. Lipstick is red, foundation is thick, eyeliner is black and luxuriant. Even in the parliament, where the dull gray business of government goes on, female employees can be seen wearing spangly cocktail dresses. Pants are unthinkable.

Secretaries do not wear tennis shoes on the long walk and subway ride to work; they wear high-heeled pumps. Middle-aged matrons who scrape by on miserly salaries or pensions wouldn't dream of wearing leisure suits or slacks to take their grandchildren to the park or to the circus when they can wear

suits and dresses.

They are, in part, still rebelling against a Communist system that tried to ban frivolity and strictly limited consumer goods. But women also expect to be treated as women.

And future generations are being programmed the same way. In state schools, little girls wear dresses and hair ribbons to kindergarten. By junior high school, boys do woodworking and car repair, and girls take sewing and cooking classes. Teachers reprimand children who try to cross over. Last week the Yeltsin administration formed a commission to investigate the dearth of women in high Government office, then appointed a man, deputy prime minister Oleg Syusuev, to lead it.

Courtship in Russia is dizzyingly romantic and atavistic: There is no such thing as a Dutch treat. Men open doors, light cigarettes and do all the driving. Women wear tons of makeup, perfume and high heels and expect and receive candy, flowers, gifts, poetry and lavish compliments from their admirers. All of that usually comes to a shuddering halt as soon as the wedding is over.

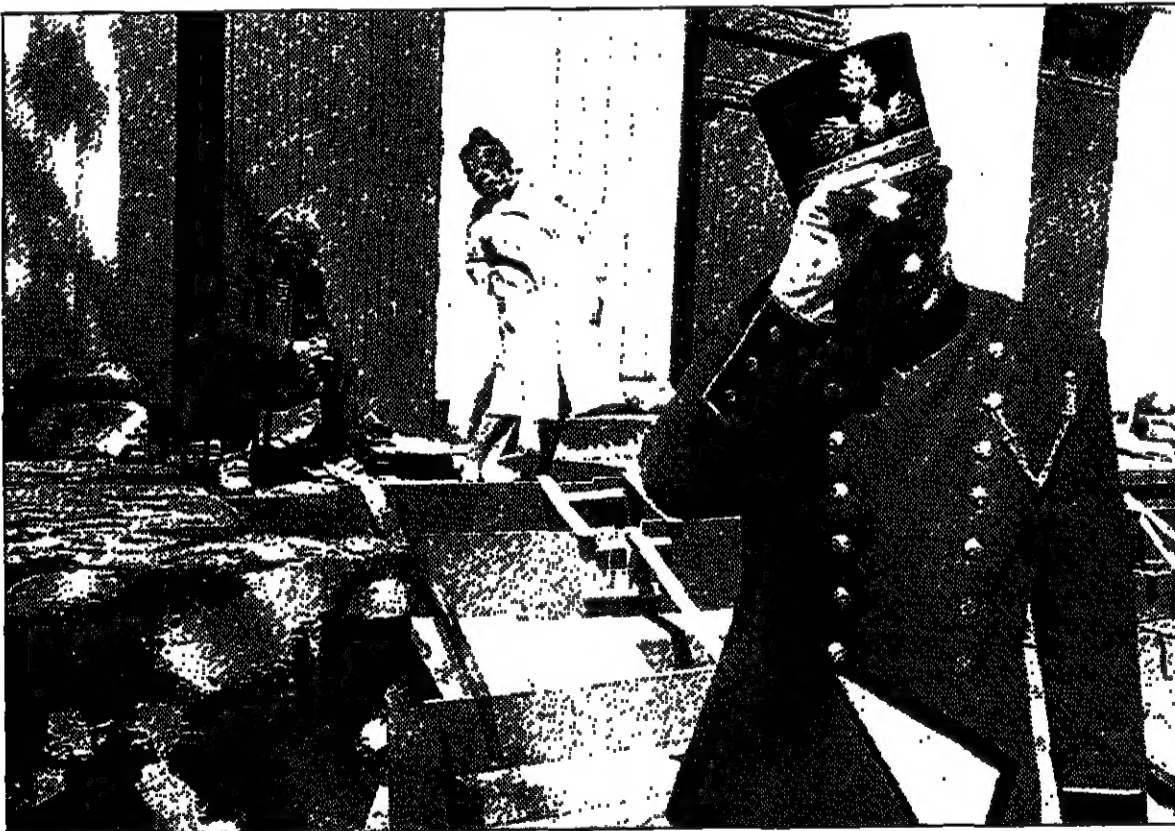
Youth ends abruptly. Women endure, complain and nurture. Men muddle through on vodka. Even women with husbands operate like single mothers, relying on their own mothers for child care and help around the house. Women form tight bonds with their female friends and neighbors, but their friendships are based as much on commiseration and mutual assistance as on compatibility.

Back on crowded streets, you can see grown Russian women walking hand in hand. Their faces, however, are once again wearing the mask of weary indifference. They are asserting their right to be alone.

Photographs by
JASON ESKENAZI



NEVSKY PROSPECT METRO STATION, ST. PETERSBURG



CAMPAIGN STOP, MOSCOW



NOBILITY BALL, MOSCOW



PARK, ST. PETERSBURG



TRAM TO SOKOL METRO STOP, MOSCOW



REVOLUTION SQUARE, MOSCOW

NO TELEPHONE SUBMISSIONS

هكذا من الأصل

The World

In the Biggest, Booming Cities, A Car Population Problem

By KEITH BRADSHAW

THE markets that most excite the world's auto makers these days are not in the United States, Japan or Germany, but in cities like this.

It is impossible to find a parking space here, and the daily traffic jams last for hours. Ambulances with lights flashing and sirens wailing sit motionless in the gridlock, the drivers around them neither disturbed nor surprised. Nobody moves. Nobody can.

So what are auto makers doing about the problem? They are racing to build more cars here as quickly as possible.

There are already 4.5 million cars in São Paulo, more than twice the 2.1 million in New York City, which has about as many people. The number here is rising by about 1,000 a day. Local auto factories operate up to 23 hours a day, and most of the world's major auto makers are scrambling to build additional factories in Brazil and next door in Argentina.

São Paulo's experience is becoming the rule among sprawling third world cities. In Cairo, pollution from endless traffic jams is threatening the Sphinx. In Bangkok, it takes three to six hours to drive to the airport, and entrepreneurs sell tiny personal toilets for use in cars. And in these and other large cities in the developing world, the widespread use of leaded gasoline is said to stunt the average child's mental development by several I.Q. points.

Moving to Town

Traffic problems have become much worse in developing countries for several reasons. They tend to have fast-growing populations combined with heavy migration from rural areas into cities. The result is

vast metropolises like São Paulo, which has tripled in population in the last 20 years without building many new roads.

At the same time, many more people are becoming able to afford cars, even though, because of heavy taxes, they cost slightly more here than identical models in the United States. Economies in Latin America have grown twice as fast in the 1990's as in the

São Paulo gets 1,000 new autos a day, but rarely a new road. In Bangkok, the airport can be six hours away.

1980's, while growth has also accelerated in East Asia. Here and elsewhere, millions of commuters are abandoning overcrowded subways and buses to sit in traffic.

All this enthusiasm for new cars has produced an extraordinary boom in auto factory construction, not only here but in India, China and other developing countries. Over the next three years, three-quarters of the new auto factories being completed around the world will be in emerging markets. The new factories will have the capacity to produce as many cars and trucks each year as Germany does now.

Auto makers do have a solution for the traffic problems of developing countries, and it does not involve car pools or public transportation. They want more highways. São Paulo sprawls like Los Angeles but has very few highways, partly because old neighbor-

hoods have had the political muscle to avoid being bulldozed. With the main avenues usually clogged with cars, residents travel many miles across town by barreling through an endless maze of back streets.

Demand for Highways

But as ever more people buy cars, the pressure to build highways is rising. "The taxpayer will force the state to do something," predicted André Beer, the executive vice president of General Motors of Brazil.

A few more affluent cities in developing countries have adopted the latest traffic management technology. Buenos Aires, the world's 12th largest city, has just installed fully automatic toll booths along the Pan American Highway. Drivers buy magnetic debit cards and glue them to their front windows; when they drive through the booths, slowing to about 10 miles an hour but not actually stopping, sensors detect the cards and automatically deduct the toll from the driver's account.

Yet the fastest-growing cities in the developing world are in the countries least able to afford such wizardry. The United Nations forecasts that Buenos Aires will drop out of its list of the world's 15 biggest metropolitan areas in a few years. Even São Paulo, roughly tied with New York now in the U.N. listings as the world's second largest after Tokyo, will probably be overtaken in the next two decades by four impoverished cities growing even more rapidly: Bombay, Lagos, Shanghai and Jakarta. All four already have terrible traffic problems.

As auto makers expand their operations in the third world, even their executives are not immune to the traffic problem. Ivan Silva, the president of Ford Brazil, beats the traffic by arriving at work by 7:10 every morning. In the evening, he waits until 7:30 to go home. And each year, the traffic gets worse.



Taipei, Taiwan, just one city where the traffic never sleeps.

Jeffrey Aaronson/Network Asso

Anxious in Australia

Blaming It All on 'Them'



The Australian politician Pauline Hanson, who wants to end native land rights, visited Katherine Gorge, which aborigines own.

By CLYDE H. FARNSWORTH

IN a new Australian film, "The Castle," a little guy stands up to big business and big government as they try to force him from his jerry-built house to make room for an airport expansion. He reacts with disbelief, then anger, then depression, but finally he achieves victory and saves his home.

The popularity of "The Castle" is tapping the frustration and insecurity of Australians who feel their place in the world threatened by Asian investment and immigration, the increasing influence of the global economy and, in the country's vast rural areas, their own Government's concessions to aborigine land claims.

The anxiety has taken on a life of its own in a furious surge of populism recalling Australia's long history of excluding non-white immigrants, which ended only a generation ago. The Labor Party's drive for economic and social integration with Asia, over its 13 years in power that ended in 1996 with the election of Prime Minister John Howard, has reaped a nativist reaction.

"There is a new deal in town — a fair deal for all Australians, and a deal that puts Australians and Australians' interest first," says the flag bearer for Down Under disaffection, Pauline Hanson, who owned a fish-and-chips shop near Brisbane before winning election to Parliament last year.

Mrs. Hanson, who ran as an independent, now has formed her own political party, One Nation. A recent poll in The Sydney Morning Herald found that one in four voters would consider voting for it.

Her vision is set forth in a book, "Pauline Hanson — The Truth," co-written by unnamed authors, that claims that aborigines ate their own infants and older tribe members and that United Nations human rights

control Australia. In 50 years, the book predicts, the country will be home to 1.8 billion Asians and will be ruled by a "cyborg-lesbian-Chinese-Indian."

Australians, it says, are victims of "new class elites" pursuing "a new religion of internationalism — anti-white racism, multiculturalism, feminism and Asianization."

If such statements endeared the One Nation party to some voters, particularly in rural Queensland, where "redneck" isn't necessarily an insult, aborigines, Muslims, Chinese and others were outraged.

Native Land Rights

Several anthropologists protested that there are no credible accounts of organized aboriginal cannibalism. Students at the University of Technology in Sydney objected that a political party pursuing Mrs. Hanson's ideas about aborigines would "continue the genocide of indigenous people and their culture." Public and private school teachers in New South Wales issued a statement likening the claims to Nazi propaganda against Jews and other minorities.

The surge of extremism coincides with aborigines' success in regaining land taken by colonists or winning compensation for it. While less than 2 percent of the population, aborigines are a larger presence in rural townships, and racial tensions are common.

In 1992 the Supreme Court upheld a claim of indigenous land rights by an aborigine, Eddie Mabo, overturning the settlement's original doctrine that the land belonged to no one before Europeans arrived. The ruling meant that under certain conditions — for example, if traditional links to the land had been maintained — aborigines could claim native title.

More than 500 land claims are before a Government tribunal, where the adjudication process could produce results ranging from financial compensation to compensation

allowing aborigines passage across land.

But angry farmers, ranchers and mining companies, who hold 42 percent of Australia's land under long-term leases, want Prime Minister Howard's coalition Government to enact a law erasing the native land rights. Mrs. Hanson has enthusiastically taken up their cause, and rural members of the coalition see their political future in danger if the Government doesn't bow.

Yet if the Government does, aboriginal leaders say, they will urge international boycotts of farm produce and the Sydney 2000 Olympics and take their concerns to the United Nations.

Immigration is another hot issue for the new populists. With the unemployment rate at 8.7 percent for eight consecutive months, many Australians worry about competition for already-scarce jobs. In polls, two-thirds of those surveyed say immigration levels are too high, even though they are nearly 30 percent below the peak reached in the late 1980's.

While legal immigration rose to 99,139 in the last fiscal year, from 87,428 the year before, at current rates Asians, now less than 5 percent of Australia's population of 18 million, would be only 7.5 percent in 30 years.

Fringe parties are hardly new to Australia. Most are at the far right and have patriotic names like Australia First. Some are single issue: a Shooters Party fights gun controls. Do the Hansonites have enough appeal to become a political force?

Many political scientists doubt it. Bob Catley, a former Parliament member who is a professor at the University of Adelaide, said most Australians balk at supporting extremist parties. "We have two moderate political parties, one at the moderate right, the Liberals, and the other at the moderate left, Labor," he said. "People shout at them, object to them, hate them, revile them. But in the end they vote for them."

No Exit Is Graceful For Africa's Dictators

Continued From Page 1

knight in shining armor," he said, "but because they stand out as the best of a bad lot."

For many intellectuals and human-rights advocates, would-be liberators like Mr. Kabila are a mixed blessing at best. They offer the prospect of toppling men like Mr. Mobutu, who enrich themselves while ruining their countries, but Mr. Kabila and guerrilla leaders in general have scarcely better credentials as democrats.

Alone, Mr. Chege said, civilian opposition movements are often powerless to force meaningful democratic concessions from entrenched dictators. Foreign powers could play a critical supporting role, he said, but for commercial or political reasons, Western powers maintain normal, even supportive, relations with most of these countries.

"The international community should be thinking of speeding the demise of the African big man before disaster arrives," Mr. Chege said. "Instead, they cling to the myth of stability under the all-powerful leader. In reality, the institutions decay so much under this type of leadership that it

just takes a little push to bring about a change."

Western diplomats typically respond that African problems must have African solutions, adding that it is not for them as outsiders, however powerful, to pick and choose the continent's leaders.

For many Africans that sounds like a sudden and convenient conversion after decades during which outsiders did nothing but that. Washington, they observe, helped establish Mr. Mobutu's power at the height of the cold war, and the United States, France and Belgium repeatedly intervened to keep their man in office, insisting that he alone could hold Zaire together.

"The dictator who has enjoyed the support of the West, even in the past, is a hard-headed dictator," said Guillaume Ngefa Atondoko, head of the Zairian Association of Human Rights. "The choice for the West is not supporting a dictator like Mobutu or supporting a rebellion like Kabila's — let them show enough interest and commitment to Africa to denounce dictators and support democratic processes, and a lot of crises can be averted. Africans will take care of the rest."

In, Damned Spot!

ZEBRA never quite made the cut. Snake has had its good years and bad. Ostrich? Only the frivolous have made that skin work. But leopard lives on.

Whether it is the real thing — as favored by Mobutu Sese Seko, the teetering President of Zaire — or fabric, leopard is a fashion commodity: you can always find it in your price range.

On the banquettes of restaurants, on ottomans in homes politely referred to as eclectic and on the backs of the chic and tacky alike, leopard endures.

Jayne Mansfield wore a leopard-skin bikini decades ago. Glenn Close donned faux leopard housecoats in her Broadway turn in "Sunset Boulevard." Many wives of heads of state have ventured out in spotted capes or hats. Most wear prints since about half of the 20 odd species of leopard today are endangered.

Nicole Fischelis, the fashion director for Saks Fifth Avenue, believes leopard

owes its enduring commercial success to its versatility. "There is just something classic about it, what we call animal magnetism," Ms. Fischelis said. "It can be sophisticated, as in a long chiffon dress, or whimsical, like in a handbag."

But some choices have been unfortunate. The leopard legging was rarely a good thing, and anything large and draping can be positively baronial.

Every year, at least one designer sends leopard down the catwalk.

Yves Saint Laurent tried out leopard-patterned dresses and scarves in 1986. Last fall he showed a leopard dress. "He always has it in the collection," Ms. Fischelis said. "For him it is almost a statement." Gianni Versace offered leopard pants in 1991, and Dolce and Gabbana featured the fabric in their shows last year.

But far from the runway is one of the animal's most loyal fans, Mr. Mobutu, whose three decades in power in Zaire are coming to a bitter end. He has worn his trademark leopard-skin hat almost from the beginning. His love of leopard, he says, dates from a childhood stroll he took with his great uncle and grandfather that was interrupted by the frightful sight of a leopard lurking in a tree. By pursuing the animal, Mr. Mobutu says, he learned to be fearless.

Some fashion insiders have seen enough spots. "I like it in pillows, and I like it in a shoe," said Polly Mellon, creative director of Allure magazine. "I'm a little sick of it in clothes. I think it would be refreshing if the designers could come up with some new alternatives. Right now, I prefer python."

JENNIFER STEINHAUER



Fearless leader hat.

Associated Press

The Nation

What's Wrong With This Picture? (Too Much Green)

By JOEL BRINKLEY

It has the look of a classic Washington power struggle. But the titans in this battle seem to have forgotten about a huge group of people who will be directly affected by the outcome: 100 million American households that may be forced to buy expensive new digital television sets or converter boxes by the year 2006.

Last month the broadcast-television industry persuaded the Government to give every television station in the nation a second channel. Under the terms of the agreement, the 1,600 new channels — extraordinarily valuable parcels of electromagnetic real estate — were given on loan until the year 2006, to facilitate the transition to digital, high-definition television.

Just a few days later, however, the squabbling began all over again. The National Association of Broadcasters began lobbying to keep this valuable property even longer. And Senator John McCain, the Arizona Republican who heads the Commerce Committee, complained that the broadcasters were being greedy. "They made an agreement to give it back in 2006," he said. "If they were unable to do so, they should have said so to begin with." Then he introduced a bill to force the issue. If it passes, the broadcasters will have to return the channels nine years from now. Then the channels would be auctioned, turned over to mobile communications companies or others for new uses. And the proceeds from the sales would be used to balance the budget.

What About My Tube?

But where does this leave the television audience? The plan to loan out all these television channels was originally supposed to be for the benefit of the public, not the broadcasters. The idea was to aid the development of high-definition television, which will offer stunningly sharp pictures on an extra-wide screen. But if the channels are going to be returned in 2006, tens of millions of Americans are likely to be hopping mad.

The only television programs that would be left on the air would be on the new digital channels. And that means that only people

I Want My HDTV

The brave new world of digital television will offer viewers crystal-clear pictures nearly six times as sharp as today's images, on widescreen sets with a width-to-height ratio of 16 to 9, rather than the 4-to-3 ratio of current televisions. And new

digital TV signals will be broadcast with six-channel "surround sound" like that in movie theaters. High-definition television sets are expected to cost \$2,500 and up when they are introduced in 1998, but prices should drop quickly.



Source: NAB

The New York Times

who had bought digital televisions, or converter boxes, would be able to watch. By then, more than likely, millions of people will already have bought them. But millions of others will not, and they are not likely to be complacent about having to junk their old analog televisions and buy new digital sets.

How did television's big plans for the 21st century get so contorted?

Back in 1992, the Federal Communications Commission was managing a high-stakes race among four corporate contestants who were each developing high-definition television systems. The Commission said it would choose a winner and this system would be selected as the standard for the next generation of American television. Under the F.C.C.'s plan, the winning system was to be

broadcast digitally on the new television channels while stations continued to broadcast conventional television on the old ones.

Eventually, though, the four contestants combined forces in the "Grand Alliance." And last December, their combined digital, high-definition television system was selected as the standard for the country's next generation of television.

The consumers' role in this transition was originally fairly clear. Over a period of years, it was supposed, consumers would gradually replace their old sets with new digital models. Then at the end of the transition period — originally set at 15 years — the digital channels would continue and the analog ones would be turned off.

In 1992, the F.C.C. had decided on a 15-year

transition period because televisions normally do not last any longer than that. Surely, in the natural course of things, nearly all of the 240 million televisions in use across the country — 2.5 of them on average in every home — would have been replaced over that period. And almost no consumers would be forced to buy a new set before they were ready.

And so the race for high-definition television proceeded apace and no one paid much attention to it until about 1994. That was when the Clinton Administration discovered spectrum auctions. Before that, pieces of the television spectrum were given out free. But then Washington discovered that businesses would pay billions of dollars for these pieces of the airwaves.

Suddenly the second channels that were being loaned out to broadcasters looked like gifts from the Government. That was why the Clinton Administration decided that the broadcasters should return them far sooner than originally planned. They are to be auctioned in 2002 — in time for the proceeds to be counted in the Administration's seven-year balanced budget plan. And the buyers would take possession of the channels in 2006, when all those that are now in use would go off the air.

Digital television service on broadcast stations in the nation's largest cities is scheduled to begin on the second channels in the fall of 1998; other digital stations will go on the air over the following three years. (It's unclear whether cable and direct-broadcast satellite subscribers will be able to receive this new programming.) And all the analog channels are scheduled to go off the air as of 2006. Under the Government's new plan, the transition period has been shortened from 15 years to eight.

That means the 100 million American homes that have one or more televisions will be expected to replace all of them within an eight-year period — like it or not. The new technology will offer sharp pictures on a new, wide screen. And the televisions will be interactive, like a computer. But they will also be expensive: at least \$2,500 each at the beginning, though the price is certain to fall. No one knows what converter boxes will cost; they haven't been designed yet. But estimates have ranged from \$50 to \$300.

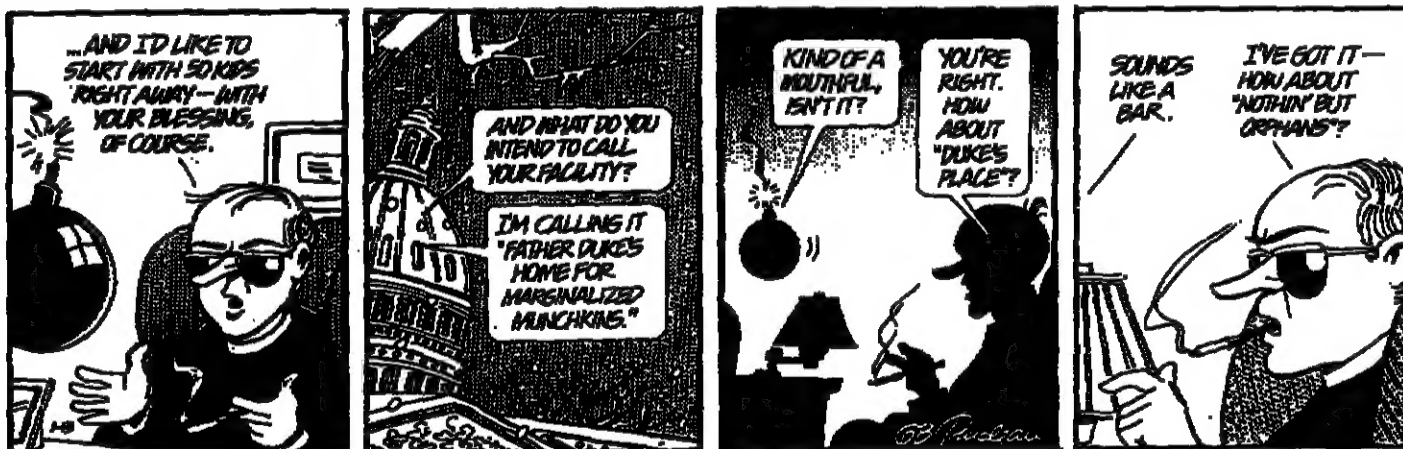
Not So Fast

Even if digital TV prices crash through the floor, it's unlikely that all the nation's households will have made the change by 2006. Eight years after black-and-white televisions first went on sale, only about half the population had bought them. Eight years after color televisions went on sale, fewer than 2 percent of American homes had them.

For now, this debate is not at the center of the American public's attention. But that will probably change in a big way eight years from now, when Americans see that Government intends to render all of the nation's remaining analog televisions obsolete in the stroke of midnight one day in 2006.

Orphanages, Inc.

The High Cost of No Intentions



A January 1995 "Doonesbury" comic strip poked fun at the notion of for-profit child care.

By NINA BERNSTEIN

THE orphanage has come back to haunt the welfare debate. Freud might have called it the return of the repressed.

Shortly before Christmas of 1994, Speaker Newt Gingrich provoked a national uproar by championing a bill that would have let states use Federal welfare money for orphanages. The critics invoked Charles Dickens. Mr. Gingrich countered with "Boys Town," the 1939 movie starring Spencer Tracy. Political cartoonists had a field day, and by the time President Clinton denounced the plan as "dead wrong," Mr. Gingrich was protesting that he had been misunderstood.

If that was the Great Orphanage Debate, orphanages, it seemed, had lost. But the underlying question was unresolved: What would happen to children whose parents lost welfare and couldn't support a family?

Now it turns out that a multibillion-dollar answer lurks in the details of the sweeping welfare law signed last year: Modern day orphanages, run for profit at Government expense.

That this took place without a murmur illustrates a rarely acknowledged truth about national policy: much of it happens while Congress is busy making other plans. Often it is the sum of incremental changes won by interested parties without fanfare, but with huge consequences.

Care for Sale

In this case, through the quiet efforts of a small company with a troubled history, the word "nonprofit" was deleted from an old section of child welfare law. Because of that tiny change, companies selling institutional care for profit, like managed mental health care corporations and youth care chains traded on Wall Street, can now compete for unlimited Federal child welfare payments. Before the change — ultimately made in an amendment sponsored by Senator John B. Breaux, a Louisiana Democrat — only foster families or nonprofit child care institutions could get the money, which is to

During the first orphanage brouhaha, about the only mention of profit-making orphanages was in Garry Trudeau's "Doonesbury" strip, and child welfare experts like the conservative scholar Douglas J. Besharov of the American Enterprise Institute dismissed the whole orphanage issue as a red herring.

"Agencies already have trouble caring for the 450,000 children now in their custody," Mr. Besharov wrote in a New York Times Op-Ed article. "Add over a million new 'orphans' and we'll have a new social crisis." He estimated that if only a tenth of the children on welfare went into group care, Federal spending would reach \$70 billion within 20 years, and that surely "a new Republican Congress would recoil at spending so much to create a new Government bureaucracy."

But those legislators who noticed the one-

wards is government, and by all accounts, its record of oversight is poor. At least 21 states, including New York and California, have been sued for failing to enforce minimal standards in the residential care they purchase for children in their custody.

"Poor children are so totally helpless that everything about them can be determined by the marketplace, without any regard to their best interest," said Marcia Lowry, director of Children's Rights Inc., a national nonprofit legal and advocacy organization. "They are a wonderful commodity for business, government, people who want to push them in any direction to serve their own interest."

There is an 85-year-old national consensus that children should not be taken from their families because of poverty alone, but the balance of Federal policy keeps shifting in the other direction. In an effort to speed adoptions, for example, two new bills in Congress would make it easier to terminate parental rights.

Children living with a parent, no matter how poor, can no longer count on government help. But the same children, if placed in an institution or foster home, carry with them an open-ended stream of Federal revenue covering up to 75 percent of the cost of food, shelter, clothing, supervision, administration and case management. This year's appropriation for such support is \$3.8 billion.

Opening the money to for-profit child care institutions guarantees a rapid increase in supply, says Mark E. Courtney, a scholar at the University of Wisconsin's Institute for Research on Poverty. Yet research documents the detrimental effects of institutions on young children — those most affected by the end of A.F.D.C.

In the zeal to end adult welfare dependency, Mr. Courtney said, Americans prefer to forget that A.F.D.C. originated as a child well-being program.

"Children who are put in harm's way by program changes or program sanctions will not spontaneously appear at the doors of 'orphanages' or other out-of-home care settings," Mr. Courtney said. "Many if not most poor parents will attempt to raise their children by any means necessary."

Congress deleted the word 'nonprofit,' and business moved in.

word change did not recoil. In the midst of historic debates over a bill that dismantled six decades of poverty policy, this small alteration passed without comment. It had been presented by companies that stood to benefit as a minor step on the privatization highway, rather than as the expansion of an open-ended Federal aid program — one already growing five times faster than Aid to Families with Dependent Children and costing the Government 11 times more for each child.

Given the notorious failures of the current foster care system, it is not hard to understand the allure of businesses that promise efficiency, economies of scale and rising stock prices, too. But in the scandal-ridden rise of other publicly financed, for-profit industries, like nursing homes and psychiatric hospital chains, the for-profit advantage has often proved illusory.

The Un-American Ugly Americans

Continued From Page 1

West, even if most of these now-universal fashions were first popularized in richer Western countries. If trends are set by Japan, this is because the Japanese were the first to break into the top ranks of technology and trade, not only in the region but also worldwide. Others will follow in other regions.

An American diplomat said he was struck by this trend when a Korean radical wearing jeans and smoking an American cigarette lectured him on the perverse effects of American influence. Many Southeast Asians have abandoned traditional costumes for business suits not because Western business people dress that way but because the Japanese and Taiwanese do.

And Karaoke, Too

Take a walk in Phnom Penh almost any time of day, and there will be children sitting on the high stools of video-game parlors where the bloodthirsty fare is Japanese-produced. Express boats on Borneo's rivers show Asian-made films in which heroes kick around the faces of bad guys without even smudging their Italian shoes. In the remote Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, where television receivers are not allowed, the police blamed videotapes from Hong Kong, with their very slick and sociopathic violence, when a Buddhist abbot was murdered a few years ago by local criminals who planned to steal an unlocked temple's treasures.

All over South Asia, middle-class parents worry about the hugely prolific Indian popular film industry with its debased or caricatured women and those silk-shirted toughs living glamorous lives. As for karaoke and what it has done to traditional forms of local entertainment, the less said the better.

"I do believe that mindless imitation of Western patterns of development is an exceedingly serious problem, but you have to accept the responsibility for the fact that this can't happen unless the elite wants it," said Palagummi Sainath, author of "Everybody Loves a Good Drought," a sharp critique of government and the establishment in India, based on his reporting from some of the poorest villages in the country.

"It's a simplification to reduce everything to the word 'Westernization,' and a bit foolish to make the argument that anything and everything that comes from the West is bad," said Mr. Sainath, who added that his most influential and respected teachers in Madras were European Jesuits. "Millions of things have moved both ways over the centuries which we all live with and are comfortable with."

"What I see is something different," said Mr. Sainath. "The super-rich are seceding from their nations. So what you have is not a Western or East Asian or Southeast Asian or Chinese model. We are building enclaves of super-privilege. What you're having is not a global village but a series of global ghettos. The Western elite is not the sole villain."

But the myth of "Americanization" dies hard, says Francis Seow, a former Solicitor General of Singapore who has been at the

falling out with the country's leader, Lee Kuan Yew, and with his conservative "Asian values." Mr. Seow went to jail for his outspokenness. Politicians, and a range of activists struggling to keep alive old third-world causes, continue to demonize the West. The Burmese military junta, now under an investment embargo by the Clinton Administration, is waging a strong anti-Western campaign in the Government-controlled media.

"Singapore leaders tend to speak snugly of family values as if they are an exclusive preserve of Asian countries," Mr. Seow said. "I have personally seen American children who love and are respectful of their parents and elders, and I am told that in the heartland of America — the real America — these values are the norm rather than the exception."

Many Asian-Americans resent Asian leaders talking about Asian values as much as they object to Americans stereotyping Asians as invulnerable overachievers. "The Lee Kuan Yews talk as if there were an Asia that is homogeneous," said Sumit Ganguly, a political scientist at Hunter College of the City University of New York. "As if the steppes of Central Asia were the same as the plains of Bengal and the plains of Bengal the same as the forests of Sarawak."

In the culturally diverse United States, a politician, however attuned to anti-immigration or even anti-Asian sentiment, would not be likely to reach for the words "Easternization" or "Asianization" when immigrant Thais (some of them in the country illegally) are found running a slave-labor operation in southern California or Chinese and Vietnamese gang executions take place in lower Manhattan.

There is a new catchword in the developing world, however, to cover cultural wounds not believed to be strictly Western. Eastern or self-inflicted; the word is globalization. It wraps up all the fears of somehow losing control to foreigners, felt as much by Americans who hate the United Nations and immigrants as it is by Indians or Filipinos who feel threatened by the International Monetary Fund, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Joe Camel or Time Warner. That shrinking world everyone was so proud of a decade or so ago has become a cultural stranglehold.

India's Elite

Francine Frankel, director of the Center for the Advanced Study of India at the University of Pennsylvania, thinks that fears of globalization are setting the stage for a new anti-Americanism among some elite groups in India, which will be the world's most populous nation sometime early in the next century, because satellite television connects the poor not only to the advertising of goods and life styles (for better or worse) but also to ideas (realistic or not) of self-advancement.

"This is at the center of India's political conflict, this challenge of the disadvantaged classes," Ms. Frankel said. "Unrestricted globalization and the penetration of American culture exacerbates this kind of change. Consumerism is really an expression of egalitarianism. The upper castes see that as

كلانا من الأصل

ECONOMY

It's My Party and I'll Splurge if I Want To

By GERALDINE FABRIKANT

BABY boomers are breaking in their 50's at the rate of one every seven seconds, but few are likely to celebrate with as much éclat as Josie Natori, the diminutive slipwear designer. On Tuesday, May 20, at 7 P.M., Ms. Natori will raise her hands above the ebony and ivory at Carnegie Hall in Manhattan, where Churchill once thundered, Tchaikovsky once wept and Frank Sinatra once crooned, and plunked Schumann's Piano Concerto in A minor for 2,800 of her closest friends.

"I'm chutzpah," giggled the Philippine-born entrepreneur, whose birthday was actually on Friday but who chose May 20 because that is the 25th anniversary of her marriage to Ken Natori, who is also her business partner.

As she talked about the event over lunch in her office at the company's headquarters on East 34th Street, she fiddled endlessly with a yellow wool scarf wrapped casually around her neck — the only visible sign that she might be nervous.

On her day, Ms. Natori will don a long dress of her own design and take center stage at Carnegie with the member Orchestra of St. Luke's, which she has hired to perform for a group of guests including family, friends, customers, invest-

ment bankers and the news media. Ms. Natori has a lot of company among the rich and famous who, in middle age, suddenly decide to enact a fantasy. Maybe the events that were supposed to be milestones in their younger days — their Sweet 16 parties, senior proms, even weddings — lacked pizzazz. Or maybe they just want a rocking good time.

Consider Frank Marshall, the producer of Steven Spielberg's *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* and an amateur magician and guitarist. For his 50th birthday party last October, he invited 500 friends to U.C.L.A.'s 10,000-seat basketball arena to watch him perform.

The extravaganza — the guest list included Goldie Hawn, Kurt Russell, Jeffrey Katzenberg, Michael Ovitz and other Hollywood heavies — centered around music and magic. There were jugglers, fortune tellers, palm readers and even the actor Mark Harmon's celebrity baseball team. Bert Fields, the Hollywood lawyer, backed by the U.C.L.A. marching band, serenaded the birthday boy with a round of "Happy Birthday."

Mr. Marshall even got his buddy Jimmy Buffett to join him in warbling Mr. Buffett's trademark tune, "Margaritaville." But the high point of the gala for Mr. Marshall was a particular magic trick: "You haven't lived till you have sawed someone in half," he said.



Frank Marshall, the Hollywood producer, being hoisted moose-pit style by revelers at his 50th birthday extravaganza last October.

Make that you haven't lived till you have sawed your better half in half. Mr. Marshall's wife and business partner, Kathleen Kennedy, was the one who succumbed to the blade.

Some people just can't wait until they hit 50 to celebrate themselves. Ethan Penner, who earned \$23 million in 1985 from Nomura Securities, where he oversees real-estate loans, has a weakness for celebrities and has hired Elton John (whose own recent 50th birthday costume ball was festive, to say the least) and the Eagles rock group to entertain clients at business conferences.

So, on his 35th birthday, Mr. Penner's wife and friends gave him the thrill of his life: they paid Wilt Chamberlain and Julius Erving, two of the

"My father was an entrepreneur in the real estate business," she recalled. "My mother and my grandmother both encouraged me to be independent. The Philippines is a very matriarchal and very entrepreneurial society."

NOR did her family mind sending her to New York in 1964, when she was only 17, to study. She enrolled at Manhattanville College in Purchase, N.Y., graduating with honors in economics. From there, she went to Wall Street, opening an office in Manila for Bache & Company before switching to Merrill Lynch and rising there to become the first woman vice president in investment banking.

Nine years of high finance would be enough. By 1977, she had married Ken Natori, a director at Shearson Lehman, and she longed for both the autonomy and the opportunity for self-expression that she believed she could find as an entrepreneur.

"Wall Street lacked an artistic element," she said. "Some people say deals are creative, but I don't know if that's true."

So she visited her native land, looking for products that might be a hit in the United States.

First, she bought a bunch of hand-woven baskets, figuring that she could sell them to big American retail chains. She couldn't. Next she went into Philippine-made blouses, only to be told by a buyer from Bloomingdale's that she ought to make them into nightshirts.

She did, and her business took off.

In 1986, Ken Natori quit Wall Street to join her as chairman, focusing on the financial side. Today, they share an office in their Manhattan headquarters.

From nightshirts, the business expanded into undergarments for women — and her very inexperience in the garment trade gave her an edge, she believes. "When I first came into this business, lingerie was still considered one of two things —

the weekends.

"I really try to concentrate, but last week, I had a very bad week, and Robert had to be on my case. He called all the time to make sure I am practicing," Ms. Natori conceded ruefully. She said she chose the Schumann A minor concerto because it was "romantic and also something I could handle."

When she first got the idea to give a concert, she figured she would invite about 500 people.

But "me and my big mouth, when I saw people, I kept saying, 'Come to the concert,'" she said. Her husband did the same. The list grew.

"I see my life passing in front of my eyes," she said. "All our worlds will be at the concert: Wall Street, fashion" and about 100 family members from the Philippines, Seattle and Japan. (Mr. Natori is Japanese-American.)

"My father doesn't know much about music," she said. "He once began to applaud before the concert was over, but he wants to sit in the front row, and so he will."

Luckily, Ms. Natori can handily afford the event. The Natori Company, which now includes fragrances, generated about \$80 million in sales last year. The price tag for the evening is about \$500,000 — including the hall, the orchestra, the airplane tickets and all the extras. And, as long as the guest list brims with enough clients and business acquaintances, a good chunk of it may well be tax deductible.

Mr. Marshall, the movie producer, did not even want to know how much his party cost. His business manager paid the bills.

"You're only 50 once," he said cheerfully.

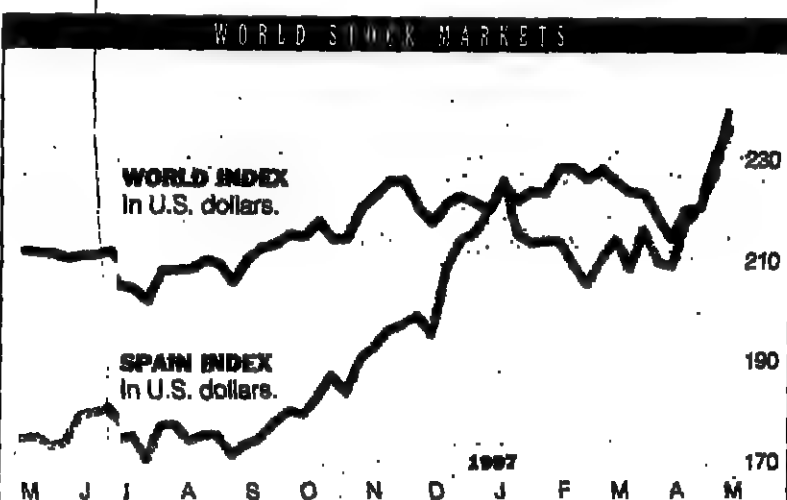
"The party sort of started small and then mushroomed into a 50th birthday party reunion. It turned into a celebration of turning 50 for a lot of people," he said. "When I started going through the guest list, I thought, 'I can't invite this person without inviting that person.' Pretty soon the numbers were swelling. It ended up being about 500."

Ms. Natori hit a much higher number, in part because she will be celebrating two events — her birthday and her 1972 wedding, which, with only 70 people attending, was a relatively tiny affair. The night after the concert, the Natoris will renew their vows and hold a dinner for the faithful.

THAT will be the icing on the cake, so to speak. In the meantime, Ms. Natori had butterflies last week about the concert. "I can't believe I am doing it myself," she said. "Now it is too late to back out."

And however friendly the audience may be, she will still be playing to a tough crowd. At a time when a lot of women her age are reaching for the concealing cream to hide their wrinkles, she is flaunting her age before a crowd of fashionphiles.

"I think it is terrific," said Mr. Questrom of Federated. "She is not afraid of being 50. She is celebrating it. She is giving it a new spin." □



Prepared by Citicorp, Sachs & Co. using data derived from the Financial Times/Standard & Poor's Actuarial World Indices, a measure of stock market performance. The FT indices are compiled jointly by The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co. and Standard & Poor's, in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and Faculty of Actuaries.

Country	PERFORMANCE IN U.S. DOLLARS					IN LOCAL CURR.				
	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank	Index	Week % Chg.	Week Rank	YTD % Chg.	YTD Rank
Australia	230.92	1.0	26	4.1	17	197.30	6.2			
Austria	190.78	5.2	4	0.5	21	187.91	10.5			
Belgium	246.62	1.2	21	8.3	10	212.63	19.2			
Brazil	253.07	1.8	17	33.4	1	496.56	38.9			
Britain	298.40	3.6	12	4.7	13	363	10.6			
Canada	198.59	1.0	25	4.6	15	199.77	8.0			
Denmark	374.08	3.7	11	6.3	12	327.98	16.2			
Finland	266.97	2.6	14	8.7	9	288.65	20.6			
France	221.19	1.2	22	3.3	19	199.22	13.5			
Germany	210.99	4.8	6	11.1	5	185.75	22.0			
Hong Kong	494.40	5.5	2	2.5	22	308	2.4			
Indonesia	236.73	5.8	1	3.7	18	352.78	6.7			
Ireland	342.24	2.4	15	4.1	16	317.60	16.0			
Italy	89.44	1.4	19	7.1	11	112.12	18.3			
Japan	124.65	4.9	5	-3.4	23	95.89	1.3			
Malaysia	544.42	1.1	24	-9.7	26	525.76	-10.4			
Mexico	385.25	2.6	13	13.6	4	11,970.34	14.0			
Netherlands	366.61	3.9	10	9.1	8	318.67	20.1			
New Zealand	86.97	1.1	23	-5.2	24	67.20	-2.6			
Norway	301.44	2.1	16	2.0	20	288.25	12.5			
Philippines	159.03	1.4	20	-21.9	27	209.00	-21.7			
Singapore	386.14	4.5	8	-8.0	25	110	-5.3			
South Africa	362.50	0.1	27	13.8	3	353.33	8.5			
Spain	242.07	5.4	3	10.1	7	249	21.3			
Sweden	441.36	4.7	7	4.6	14	501.54	17.6			
Switzerland	283.51	4.3	9	18.8	2	251.05	26.4			
Thailand	68.18	-9.9	28	-28.8	28	68.74	-27.9			
United States	333.81	1.4	18	10.6	6	333.81	10.6			

COMPOSITE INDICES				
Europe	257.47	3.5	7.4	237.66
Pacific Basin	143.62	4.4	-3.4	109.71
Europe/Pacific	191.10	3.9	2.5	158.01
World	238.66	2.6	6.4	212.78

CURRENCIES				
Exchange rate	Friday	Last Friday	Week % Chg.	Year Ago
Japanese yen to the U.S. dollar	120.35	126.57	-4.91	105.56
German marks to the U.S. dollar	1.6869	1.7293	-2.45	1.5295
Canadian dollars to the U.S. dollar	1.3923	1.3815	+0.78	1.3705
U.S. dollars to the British pound	1.6205	1.6210	-0.03	1.5202

Sources: Bloomberg Financial Markets, exchange rates as of Friday's New York close

Baby boomers greet age 50 with big smiles and big parties.

greatest professional basketball players of all time, in the neighborhood of \$35,000 to join Mr. Penner and his pals for a game at Iona College in New Rochelle, N.Y. They played for four hours, and "I really had a great time," he said.

OTHER people celebrate later in life, and in a more sedate fashion. To mark his 50th birthday in January 1994, James Wolfensohn, who then headed his own investment banking boutique and is now president of the World Bank, took over Carnegie Hall, where he entertained about 500 friends by playing the cello with pals including the violinists Isaac Stern and Itzhak Perlman. At that time, Mr. Wolfensohn had already stepped down as chairman of Carnegie Hall.

Certainly, no one undertakes such an effort for business reasons alone. But it doesn't hurt. Ms. Natori's guest list will include notables of the fashion world like Allen I. Questrom, outgoing chairman of Federated Department Stores; Philip B. Miller, chief executive of Saks Fifth Avenue; Michael Gould, chief executive of Bloomingdale's, and James E. Preston, chairman of Avon, which handles Ms. Natori's perfumes. And, of course, there will be a clutch of other designers, including Adrienne Vittadini, Pauline Trigere and Vera Wang.

Though Ms. Natori is associated with her ultra-feminine sleepwear and lingerie, she was a piano prodigy in the Philippines, where she had performed before 800 people twice by the time she was 19.

"But I grew up knowing I wanted to be in business," she said. "I never considered music for a minute. I didn't have the temperament."

She also had no qualms about wanting to be self-sufficient.



Elton John, en route to his 50th birthday gala last month.

May 5-9: The Dow Rises Modestly, as Wall Street Puzzles Over the Fed's Next Move

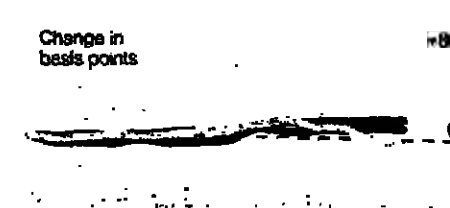
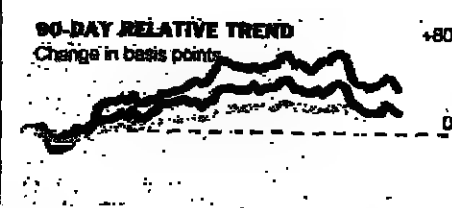
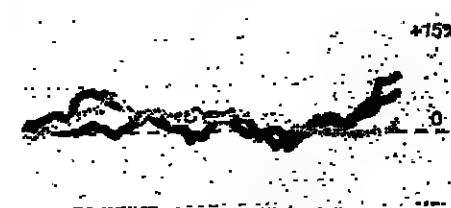
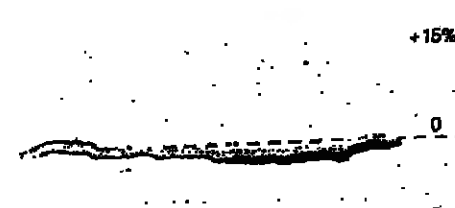
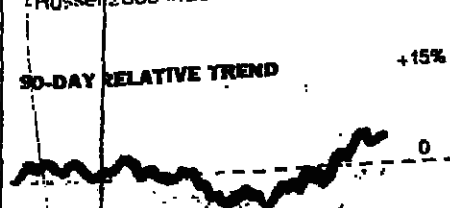
PRICES	
SP500 INDEX	Up 1.45%
Dow Jones Industrial	Up 1.39%
Small capitalization	Up 2.10%
Russell 2000 index	Up 1.42%

DOMESTIC BONDS	
Treasuries	Up 0.24%
Municipals	Up 0.49%
Corporates	Up 0.20%

AROUND THE WORLD	
European stocks	Up 3.52%
Asian stocks	Up 4.40%
Gold	Up 2.25%

YIELDS	
Long bonds	6.89%
Notes	6.22%
Municipals	5.83%

OTHER INVESTMENTS	
Money market funds	4.96%
Bank C.D.'s	5.22%
Stocks	1.88%



Sources: Bank Rate Monitor, Bloomberg Financial Markets, The Bond Buyer, Datastream, Goldman, Sachs, IBC's Money Fund Report, Merrill Lynch, Standard & Poor's, Ryan Labs

The New York Times

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Investigate the Republicans, Too

After months of claiming that only the Democrats have taken illegal foreign campaign money, the Republican Party has discovered that it has been guilty of the same thing. The \$122,000 now being returned by the Republicans to a Hong Kong company is not nearly as big as the \$3 million the Democrats have returned to sources overseas. But the Republican action raises the same kinds of troubling questions that have swirled around Democratic fund-raising in the last year. The Senate Government Affairs Committee, which has promised a bipartisan approach in its investigations of the fund-raising scandals, has an obligation to give these allegations a careful review.

The amount of illegal money in question may, for one thing, be far larger than the Republican Party now says. Time magazine, which first disclosed the Hong Kong connection, has reported that a businessman named Ambrosius Tung Young did more than make the \$122,000 in direct contributions. The magazine said he also put up the collateral that enabled a Republican think tank known as the National Policy Forum to secure a \$2.2 million bank loan. Mr. Young eventually lost \$500,000 of the collateral, Time said, when the forum could not repay the loan itself. The first thing that needs to be determined, then, is the extent of the Republican financial link to Mr. Young.

Senate investigators should also pursue whether there was any kind of quid pro quo for these loans and contributions. The National Policy Forum was set up in 1993 by Haley Barbour, then Republican Party chairman, to generate policies for the party. Mr. Barbour's office has confirmed that he introduced Mr. Young to Senator Bob Dole and House Speaker Newt Gingrich, and that he brought Mr. Young along to a meeting with the Chinese Foreign Minister last year. Mr. Young has served as an agent for Pratt & Whitney and other aviation companies with an interest in expanding operations in China, so these meetings are likely to have been helpful to his business.

Mr. Barbour says that putting up collateral for

the \$2.2 million in loans was legal, since the money came not from Mr. Young, but from a Florida-based subsidiary owned by Mr. Young's sons, who are American citizens. But this subsidiary has negligible activities in the United States, and a former Republican official has been quoted by The Boston Globe as saying that the \$2.2 million "was Hong Kong corporate money." In any case, contrary to Mr. Barbour's statement, the loans may have directly benefited the Republican National Committee itself, since they helped the National Policy Forum to transfer large sums back to the R.N.C., money that Time said was used in the 1994 and 1996 campaigns.

Mr. Barbour asserts that it would have been acceptable for the National Policy Forum to have received foreign loans or contributions, since it was an entity independent of the Republican Party. That assertion is itself the best argument for an aggressive inquiry by those in Congress interested in campaign fund-raising abuses. As the founder and head of the forum, can Mr. Barbour seriously argue that it was not in effect a Republican Party group? Equally unacceptable is Mr. Barbour's refusal to disclose publicly all the sources of the forum's money. The forum raised between \$5 million and \$7 million before going out of business last December. Congressional investigators should demand a full disclosure of the contributors.

Senator Fred Thompson and the Government Affairs Committee have established a somewhat cooperative working relationship with committee Democrats. Mr. Thompson, a Tennessee Republican, agreed to subpoena what he feels are the relevant records from Young Brothers in Florida and Hong Kong. But Mr. Thompson has not acted on a Democratic request to subpoena Mr. Barbour's records as well. The Senator has promised to pursue the investigation aggressively and in a bipartisan way. That means adding Mr. Barbour to his subpoena list. Only an evenhanded inquiry can deliver the ultimate objective, genuine reform outlawing fund-raising abuses at home and abroad.

America's Role in Hong Kong

The coming transfer of Hong Kong from Britain to China is a case study in the limits of American power. Customary levers of diplomacy and military pressure are ill suited to defending Hong Kong's freedoms, and the most severe economic penalty — revoking all Chinese trade privileges — seems mismatched to the problems ahead. A mix of strong Presidential pressure, quiet diplomacy and carefully targeted trade sanctions imposed jointly with other countries offers the best hope of influencing Chinese conduct.

Hong Kong is an intricate and inherited problem. Britain has long encouraged free markets, an unfettered press and rule of law in Hong Kong, but only in recent years has it permitted steps toward democratic governance, including a freely elected legislature. This, to some extent, was a cynical British move to cover its exit with glory after 150 years of often rigid colonial rule.

Unfortunately, the political climate in China today is more repressive than in 1984, when terms were set for the return of Hong Kong this July 1, and London's agreements with Beijing offer little real protection for Hong Kong's 6.5 million citizens. To prevent a relatively free society from being crushed, Washington has to take the lead in defending democracy in Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong transfer is part of the larger issue of China's emergence as a great power, perhaps the most difficult international challenge of the day. China is neither America's ally nor enemy, and a cold war policy of confrontation and containment does not fit. But with 1.2 billion people, one of the world's fastest growing economies and ambitions to be a military power, China will one day be America's rival. As long as it remains a Communist state with no political liberty, China will never enjoy an easy relationship with the United States.

Hong Kong is soon to be the prime testing ground of Chinese tolerance and intentions. But the political and economic complexities of Hong Kong make it a hard place to get unambiguous results.

Shut Out of Excellence

New Yorkers have heard a great deal from both Schools Chancellor Rudy Crew and State Education Commissioner Richard Mills about the need to strengthen course requirements — and how teachers, principals and superintendents should be evaluated on their students' performance. A study released last week by an advocacy group called Acorn amplifies this point, showing a widespread failure to prepare students for the elite public high schools like Bronx Science and Stuyvesant, with black and Latino students paying the heaviest penalties.

The most alarming fact to emerge is that more than half of the students at Stuyvesant and Bronx Science come from either private and parochial schools or just three school districts that have less than 10 percent of the public middle-school population. The five districts that send the most children to the elite schools are predominantly white, while the

Minority students are failing the entry tests for the elite schools — if indeed they take them at all — because their middle schools are offering too few of the advanced classes that prepare students for the tests. In District 7 in the South Bronx, for example, fewer than 3 percent of eighth graders take the Regents examination in math. By contrast, District 26 in Queens tests about 50 percent of its students. The Education Trust in Washington, which analyzed the entry tests for the elite high schools, found that they required "an excellent math curriculum, well-trained teachers and ... extensive practice."

The Board of Education has created a special program to help minority students recover from poor middle-school educations and pass the specialized entry tests. But the program accommodates only a handful of students — when the need extends to tens of thousands. The only solution is for Mr.

Trust Women to Make Choice About Abortion

To the Editor:

Your front-page article "States Outlaw Late Abortions as a Federal Ban Faces a Veto" (May 5) contends that the debate over late-term abortion has caused abortion-rights supporters in Congress to "switch sides," saying this phenomenon is not occurring in the reverse. In making this point you neglected the experiences of those whose lives are affected by this issue, the women who face this difficult decision. I was one of those women, and when the lens is opened to include us, the picture becomes quite different.

As a mother and a practicing Roman Catholic, I at one time could be counted among those who protest outside abortion clinics. I could never

have imagined supporting a woman's right to choose for any reason, until I faced a catastrophic pregnancy. In the sixth month of a much-wanted pregnancy, a routine ultrasound revealed a severe fetal anomaly known as anencephaly, in which the brain fails to develop. On the advice of my doctors and with the guidance of our priest, my husband and I decided to induce labor, knowing the baby would not survive after the umbilical cord was cut.

I had been in labor for 13 hours when a complication developed that my doctor could not have anticipated. In order to protect my health, he had to cut the umbilical cord before the baby was completely delivered. (I was able to become pregnant again,

and gave birth to a boy by.) Under the vague language of the Federal and state bans, the procedure performed to protect my health and future fertility would be outlawed.

Last year I did something I never could have imagined doing until I faced the most difficult decision of my life — I testified before Congress against the late-term abortion ban and urged lawmakers to preserve a woman's right to choose.

Whether the debate takes place on Capitol Hill or in statehouses, I hope lawmakers ultimately will trust women and their doctors to make medically appropriate choices in very personal and difficult circumstances.

MAUREEN RITTELL
Forestdale, Mass., May 6, 1997

Computers vs. Humans: Clashing Symbols

To the Editor:

Regarding John Horgan's Op-Ed piece about the disappointment of artificial intelligence ("Smarter Than Us? Who's Us?" May 4), it is clear to me that the researcher Marvin Minsky has based his work on a flawed premise: that since the human mind reasons with symbols, and a computer also reasons with symbols, then the computer can replicate the processes of the human mind.

It is true that humans use symbols to reason, but we are trained to do so, making symbols out of images. Fundamentally, the human mind is a processor of images which it combines with other information. The computer, on the other hand, is fundamentally a processor of symbols, and it creates images out of symbols.

Until we have a computer design that is primarily an image processor, it will continue to lag far behind the human mind in all aspects of what we call thinking. The computer can win the game of tic-tac-toe because playing the game can be reduced to the use of symbolic logic. The game of chess differs from tic-tac-toe only in its complexity, and for the computer to play it well says little about its capability to think like a human.

RICHARD TEN DYKE
Pound Ridge, N.Y., May 4, 1997
The writer studies artificial intelligence.



Tom Barrett

To the Editor:

Frederick Friedel, who advises Garry Kasparov, stated (news article, May 4) that the computer Deep Blue will eventually triumph in chess. He went on: "We humans are pathetic, aren't we? We're best at nothing on the planet, except intelligence, and now, even that..."

Mr. Friedel is overlooking the fact that it is man's superior intelligence, creativity and willingness to challenge oneself that will make it possible for an inanimate machine to win a chess match.

S. TED ANTHOLIS
Glendale, N.Y., May 5, 1997

Don't Penalize the Poor for Their Poverty

To the Editor:

Regarding your report on May 6 of a bill that would require the 450,000 Americans who receive Federal housing subsidies to perform eight hours of community service a month: If the purpose is to establish a public good (service) for the private good (subsidy), ought we not demand that those many millions of us who benefit from the mortgage

interest deduction — for all practical purposes a subsidy, one worth roughly four times the public housing subsidy — do odd jobs too?

Since no one is prepared to equate the two, are we not justified in concluding that the purpose of the bill is either (a) punitive, intended to penalize poor people for their poverty, or (b) educational, intended to show poor people that only rich people merit a free lunch?

LEONARD FEIN
Director, Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism
New York, May 6, 1997

Defining Mental Illness

To the Editor:

In his May 7 letter on workplace accommodations for employees who have a mental illness, Steve Feinberg laments that any unproductive behavior is now a "protected activity."

He is wrong. Under Equal Employment Opportunity Commission guidelines, behavioral deficits that are "the product of a mental illness" are to be accommodated. Psychiatry is not a perfect craft, but it can distinguish behavior that is impelled by a clear mental illness from behavior that is otherwise motivated.

STEPHEN J. SMOLLER
Glens Falls, N.Y., May 7, 1997

To the Editor:

You describe the rise in homelessness that has resulted from the changes in Milwaukee's welfare laws ("Cutting Welfare Rolls but Raising Questions," front page, May 7). You then characterize this situation as an "absence of obvious calamity." Any one who thinks homelessness is not an "obvious calamity" must trust that neither he nor anyone in his family will experience it. If they do, they may think otherwise. We have become breathtakingly callous about the suffering of our fellow Americans.

FRANK BECK
New York, May 7, 1997

Barring Russia From NATO Would Be Mistake

To the Editor:

William Safire (column, May 7) argues that the real reason for NATO expansion is to protect the nations of Eastern Europe from Russia, which "with its resources and educated population, will rise again" and "will threaten again."

Russia in 1997 presents no threat to anyone. Mr. Safire quotes President Vytautas Landsbergis of Lithuania in emotional, historical references to aggressive rulers of Russia's past, yet such ancient history is irrelevant to today's political realities.

Russia has removed its troops from Eastern and Central Europe. It participates in peacekeeping operations in the former Yugoslavia. A painful economic and political transition is going relatively smoothly. Russia successfully held parliamentary and presidential elections.

President Boris N. Yeltsin has just appointed the most liberal, reform-oriented Government since 1992. Russia has no record that would indicate its imperialist intentions, with the exception of the war in Chechnya, which was a horrible mistake.

Russia's nervous reaction to NATO expansion is understandable: remember American reaction in a similar situation during the Cuban crisis in 1962? According to recent polls, from 70 percent to 89 percent of Russians consider NATO expansion

a direct threat to Russia's national security. This near-unanimity is a rare example of consensus among the Russian people and the Government.

After World War I the United States, French and British policy of alienating a defeated enemy hastened the development of a fascist Germany. After World War II the efforts of Western allies to engage West Germany and Japan in building democratic societies became a success, insuring peace for decades.

Isolating Russia from the civilized world at this critical juncture can only jeopardize the success of democratic reforms there. If NATO really wants to "provide the collective defense and foster democracy," the only logical step is to invite Russia to join.

VLADIMIR RASKIN
Seattle, May 9, 1997
The writer, deputy director of the Moscow Research Center for Human Rights, is a visiting scholar at the University of Washington.

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Russia's Too Strapped To Withhold Its Oil

To the Editor:

Caspar Weinberger and Peter Schweizer, in their Op-Ed piece about Russia's bid for domination over energy resources in the Caspian Sea region ("Russia's Oil Grab," May 9) are pushing the art of alarmist exaggerations that the cold war. They ignore several facts:

First, there is nothing new about Russian control of Caspian oil. Moscow has controlled this area and its petroleum since czarist days.

Second, contrary to Messrs. Weinberger and Schweizer, Moscow is not pushing Azerbaijan to join the Commonwealth of Independent States. Azerbaijan has been a member since the C.I.S. was founded in 1991.

Also contrary to what the authors imply, Russia has no interest in withholding oil from the world market. Indeed, financially strapped Russia must sell as much oil for hard currency as possible.

If Russian designs on Caspian oil really are sinister, the logical policy is to improve Western relations with Iran and build a pipeline from Azerbaijan to the Persian Gulf. This is the opposite of current American policy.

MICHAEL ROSKIN
Williamsport, Pa., May 9, 1997
The writer is a professor of political science at Lycoming College.

History Under Lust

To the Editor:

As you report (news article, May 4), the Museum of the City of New York is marking the 100th anniversary of the city's consolidation by exhibiting a copy of the first Charter of Greater New York. Unfortunately, two of the largest collections of documents related to the city's legal history are held under inadequate conditions.

Those at the Science, Industry and Business Library still have early 1900's call numbers, making it difficult for the staff to identify documents desired by researchers. Materials at the Municipal Reference and Research Center are housed in a facility that is underfunded and overcrowded.

WILLIAM H. MANZ
Executive Law Librarian
St. John's Univ. School of Law
Jamaica, Queens May 6, 1997

Prep Schools for Prison

To the Editor:

Re "Deletion of Wd in Welfare Bill Opens Foster Care to Big Business" (front page, May 4): These for-profit foster care institutions will likely be the prep schools for for-profit prisons.

JOHN CORRIGAN
Milwaukee, May 5, 1997

Managed-Care Limits

To the Editor:

Robert Reichauer suggests in "What Medicare Reform?" (Op-Ed, May 5) that Medicare patients be given a choice between inexpensive plans with limited choice and "expensive coverage" with "additional premiums." That choice already exists. Managed-care plans regularly advertise "no deductible no co-pay, free pharmacy."

Most Medicare patients especially the sick ones, are rejecting these blandishments because they also know this means limited choice of physicians, limited care options and a limited drug formulary.

Younger employees frequently get no choice about their "managed" care, but Medicare patients know better.

LONNIE B. HANAUER, M.D.
Millburn, N.J., May 8, 1997

A Welcome 'Intrusion'

To the Editor:

Your May 9 report on the loss of a \$5 billion Federal budget allocation for school repairs cites Republicans' opposition to Federal expansion into an area "that has always been a local concern."

Hello? As a senior citizen, I still remember attending one of the thousands of America's public schools built with Federal money under the W.P.A. program of the 1930's. Have the young whippersnappers who seem to be leading the G.O.P. these days conveniently forgotten how local school districts were created and profited from this government "intrusion," or did they all go to private schools?

JOHN GLASEL

Journal
FRANK RICH'Partial
Birth'
Baloney

As the Senate assumes its fetal positions this week for yet another bout of posturing about "partial-birth" abortion, here's the only fact pro-choice and pro-life partisans alike can bank on: Almost every "fact" spouted by either side will be a sham.

Last week, for instance, Tom Daschle, the Senate's pro-choice Democratic leader, earned cries of "sham" from the pro-life troops when he proposed a new "compromise" that would ban all abortions after a fetus is viable, with some exceptions for a woman's health. The critics have a point. Under Roe v. Wade, any state can already enact its own post-viability ban — as 41 states have. Since Mr. Daschle says that his law would not take precedent over those of the states, why bother? Mainly to allow nervous pro-choice Senators to cast a symbolic fence-sitting vote.

But an even bigger sham is the pro-life bill itself — the "partial-birth" ban that the Senate will pass, as the House already has. (After that, it will be derailed by a Clinton veto.) Far from stamping out "infanticide," as its proponents purport, this bill would not stop a single abortion. It would merely force women who have late-term abortions — a small group by any of the unprovable figures bandied about — to use another, equally gruesome and possibly more dangerous procedure.

And it might not even do that. As vaguely written, the bill is unconstitutional; it outlaws second-trimester abortions protected by Roe v. Wade. It's also unenforceable: In Michigan, where a look-alike "partial-birth" ban has just become law (and is under challenge in court), authorities doubt that evidence could ever be found to make a case stick. Even Mark Crutcher, the head of Life Dynamics, a hard-line pro-life litigation firm, told The Detroit Free Press: "You are never going to see a prosecution of a partial-birth abortion. There is physically no way to enforce that law. The whole issue is a scam being perpetrated by people on our side... for fund-raising purposes."

More scams or shams, anyone? Remember Ron Fitzsimmons, the abortion-provider lobbyist who announced he had "lied" about the number of "partial-birth" abortions? Well, Roy Rivenburg of The Los Angeles Times has since reported that Mr. Fitzsimmons's revised number — 3,000 to 5,000 — is also misleading because it mixes apples

The subject is
women, not
fetuses.

and oranges, counting abortions that don't fit the "partial-birth" bill's definition of the procedure. Mr. Rivenburg also uncovered another sham: Helen Alvarez, the lawyer for the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, conceded that a much-quoted assertion her organization made in a full-page Washington Post ad — that some women get abortions because they "won't fit into a prom dress" — was an ad agency's fiction.

Much as journalists overplayed Mr. Fitzsimmons's recantation, so they do with Daniel Patrick Moynihan's supposedly unexpected opposition to "partial-birth" abortion. The press repeatedly describes Senator Moynihan as a pro-choice stalwart who did a sudden about-face when this issue came up. In fact, Mr. Moynihan's pro-choice voting record was already mixed; the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League's analysis of '96 senatorial votes shows that he voted for abortion rights less often than 35 other Democrats — and less often than a half-dozen pro-choice Republicans, too.

The net effect of a debate built on a pileup of false premises and dubious facts is a prolonged exercise in doubletalk — all about a "partial-birth" bill that won't be enacted and wouldn't accomplish its ostensible aims even if it were. So what's the point? No one has stated it more plainly than John Jakubczyk, the general counsel of Arizona Right to Life, who said last fall that "partial birth" abortion isn't "what we care most about. Our goal is to stop the killing of unborn children at any stage of development." In other words, even its advocates don't expect a ban on "partial birth" abortion to stop any abortions; the anti-choice hope is to demonize abortion in general to pave the way for more plausible legislation that really would restrict a woman's abortion rights.

Our Congressmen, pro-life and pro-choice alike, could save a lot of time if they just cut to the chase and voted on the only real issue at stake in the entire "partial-birth" sham: Who is in favor of rolling back Roe v. Wade and who is not?



Mothers Who Get By

By Frank McCourt

Denise stopped me last year near the New York Board of Education building in Brooklyn. She told me she was now certified as an elementary school teacher and reminded me that she had been in my class at New York Technical College in the spring of 1960.

"But you'd never remember me," she said.

Remember her? I could never forget her or that morning class. Along with Denise, there were 23 women, almost all mothers, most of them from "the Islands." Denise herself came from Antigua.

There were four men. One of them, Ray, complained one day that he hadn't read the previous night's assignment because, he said, he'd been hassled by the police on a subway platform and all because he was black.

The women had no patience with him. They told him that if he had stayed home and done his schoolwork he wouldn't be getting into trouble. No kid of theirs would come home with a story like that; they'd break his head. Ray was quiet. You don't talk back to 23 women from the Islands.

Denise was often late for that class and not until she wrote an autobiographical essay did I find out why. I asked her to read it to the class, but she said no — she'd be ashamed to let people know she had two children whose father had left her to go back to Montserrat. But she wouldn't mind if I read it to the class if I didn't reveal who wrote it.

The essay described a day in her life. She woke early so that she could do her Jane Fonda exercises while thanking Jesus for giving her another day. After a shower, she woke her children, an 8-year-old boy and a 6-year-old girl, and took them to school. It was a rush, then, to get to her college classes.

In the afternoon, she went to her job at a bank in downtown Brooklyn and from there to her mother's house. Her mother had already picked up the children from school. Without her mother's help she wouldn't know what to do. After taking the children home, putting them to bed, getting their clothes ready for the next morning, Denise got into bed, thanked Jesus for another wonderful day and tried to fall asleep with his image in her head.

The women thought that was a wonderful story and when Ray said he didn't believe in Jesus they told him to shut up, what did he know? They worked, took care of families, went to school and this was a wonderful country, and if he didn't like it he should go live somewhere else.

I told the women they were heroes. They looked at me, puzzled. You could guess what was going through their heads: They were doing what they were supposed to do, so why was this teacher calling them heroes? To illustrate I went back to another class when this school was known as New York Community College.

In early 1968 the chairman of the English department asked me if I'd like to teach a class of "paraprofessionals." I said yes, though I had no notion of what a paraprofessional was.

I found out the first night of class. Here were 36 women, African American with a few Hispanics, ranging in age from early 20's to late 50's. Most were teacher aides in elementary schools. They were hoping to earn associate degrees and, perhaps, continue their education so that someday they might become fully fledged teachers themselves.

I asked them to write a short autobiographical essay for the second class, and they gathered up their

books and filed out, apprehensive, still unsure of themselves, of each other and of me.

When we met again, the mood was the same except that one woman sat with her head on the desk, sobbing. I asked what was the matter. She raised her head, tears on her cheeks.

"I lost my books."

"Oh well," I said. "You'll get an-

My student didn't
know she was the
hero of her own life.

other set of books. Just go to the English department and tell them what happened."

"You mean I won't get thrown out of college?"

"No."

She smiled; we all smiled. Now we could begin. I asked for their compositions and told them I'd read some aloud.

The essays were stiff, self-conscious. As I read, I wrote some common misspelled words on the chalkboard, suggested changes in structure, pointed out grammatical errors. I urged them to write simply and clearly. It was all dry and tedious until I told the women that for their next assignment they could write on anything they liked. They look stunned.

"Anything? But we don't have anything to write about. We don't have any adventures."

They had nothing to write about, nothing but the tensions in their lives, the riots that erupted around them during that time, the husbands who disappeared forever, the children they struggled to raise, their daily grind of housework, jobs, school.

They loved the strange ways of words. One night, during a discussion on juvenile delinquency, Mrs. Williams sang out, "No kid of mine is going to be a yoot."

"Yoot?" I asked.

"Yeah, you know. Yoot." She held up a newspaper where the headline howled, "Youth Slays Mom."

April came and with it the death of Martin Luther King Jr. Classes were suspended for a week. When we met again, I asked for the essays I had assigned the week before.

Mrs. Williams was indignant and sarcastic. "Look, Mr. McCourt, when they are trying to burn your house down, you aren't sitting around writing compositions."

June came, and Bobby Kennedy was killed. Grammar, dictionaries, compositions — they hardly mattered anymore. My students wondered what was happening to the world. But, they agreed, you have to carry on: Education was the only road to sanity. When they talked about their children their faces brightened, and I became irrelevant to the proceedings. Now that they were in college, they told one another, they stood over their kids and made sure the homework was done.

On the last night in June 1968, there was a final examination, a college requirement. It would be my last class until I returned to the college 22 years later. Now I watched those heads bent over papers, the mothers of 212 children, and I knew that, no matter what was written — or not written — no one would fail.

They finished. The last paper had been handed in, but no one was leaving. I asked if they had another class. They shook their heads. Mrs. Williams stood up. She coughed, the rest tittered.

"Ah, Mr. McCourt," she said. "I must say, I mean we must say, it was a wonderful thing to come to your class, you know, because none of us ever thought we'd be in college and

learn so much and everything."

She coughed again but there were no more titters. "And we got you this little something hoping you'll like it and..."

She sat down, sobbing. My God, I thought, this class begins and ends in tears. The gift was passed up, a bottle of shaving lotion, which, when I sniffed it, nearly knocked me over. But I sniffed again with gusto and told the ladies I'd keep the bottle forever in memory of them.

The women in 1990 thought this was a wonderful story, too. They said the women from 1968 were real heroes because of the way they survived riots and assassinations.

No, they still couldn't see themselves as heroes. Even Denise, looking back from that Brooklyn street last year, said she couldn't have done anything without her mother, and though she wasn't too sure anymore about

Jesus and Jane Fonda, that's what the hero was her mother.

Denise was forced to plant tulips to

her mother's memory. She had a half million dollars.

Essay
WILLIAM SAFIRE

Clintonian Contempts

WASHINGTON
Consider a quartet of contemptuous acts.

1. *Contempt toward the Senate.* Remember, back in the 80's, when C.I.A. Director William Casey narrowly construed a Senate committee's question, and thus was able to conceal a covert operation from lawful oversight? After that artful dodge, neither senators nor the press trusted him again.

Janet Reno went Casey one better in testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Asked why she refuses to seek court appointment of independent counsel in the campaign finance scandal, President Clinton's Attorney General assured the senators that the "career professionals" in the Justice Department advised her against it.

But Reno in the witness chair deliberately withheld one material fact: F.B.I. Director Louis Freeh had repeatedly and strongly urged her to let outside counsel investigate the Asian penetration of the White House.

When Director Freeh's sharp disagreement with her see-no-evil policy later came to light, no senator displayed a whit of irritation at having been brazenly duped by our chief law officer.

When reporters asked about direct opposition by the F.B.I. chief, Reno remained in denial: "I'm not sure you would characterize it as a difference of opinion." One says yes; the other says no; whom is she kidding?

2. *Contempt for the public's intelligence.* Watch for weasel words ending in -ly. President Clinton said he had not based foreign policy decisions "solely" on campaign contributions — as if even partial influence were not evidence of bribery.

Fully is another weaseling adverb that helps the Clintons wriggle away. For months, the President and Mrs. Clinton have been insisting they had been told only that Webster Hubbell was involved in a mere "bidding dispute" — nothing criminal, prosecution of which might cause Hubbell to spill the beans on Whitewater bribery to the Independent Counsel.

But last week Jeff Gerth and Steve Labaton of The Times blew that line out of the water by revealing that President Clinton's personal lawyer, David Kendall, and the Clintons' commodity benefactor, James Blair, were both profoundly aware of what deep trouble Web Hubbell was in while he was still Associate Attorney General.

During those eight months before Hubbell was forced to plead guilty to

his crimes, he was paid nearly a half million dollars.

flowed into his pocket, as he stopped cooperating with the prosecution.

You are being asked to believe that all during that time neither Mr. Kendall nor Mr. Blair mentioned Hubbell's criminal vulnerability to the Clintons — even as those aides were getting the crook to resign.

How does the White House handle exposure of this tissue of lies about what the President knew and when he knew it? The fallback fudge is that neither Clinton was fully apprised of what Kendall and Blair had learned.

That clanks false. It's more reason-

Freeh at last;
F.B.I. vs. Reno.

able to assume the Clintons were warned time and again of their closest associate's deep trouble, and of the need to steer him heavy fees to keep him inside the tent. The deed was done; the money passed; staring at us are signs of a criminal conspiracy to tamper with a witness by officials at the top.

3. *Contempt of the House.* Only when White House Counsel Jack Quinn last year was faced with a contempt of Congress charge did he release thousands of pages of long-concealed documents.

But the White House did not tell Congress about the damaging notes taken by publicly paid lawyers it was secretly fighting in court to withhold from the Independent Counsel on spurious grounds of privilege. The House of Representatives now discovers it has been hoodwinked — treated with utmost contempt — for a year.

4. *Contempt of underlings.* After turning over some of the notes taken by Government lawyers of meetings with subordinates, as required by law in criminal cases, the Clintons secretly "drew the line" at doing the same with Hillary, all the while publicly pretending to cooperate. Suddenly a new principle of privilege was discovered not available to anyone else in the White House.

Upon what meat doth Caesar's wife feed that she is grown so great? Does the lawyerly Mrs. Clinton seriously assert she enjoys a privilege in law denied to Margaret Williams, her loyal chief of staff? Does she hold the Supreme Court in contempt, too? □

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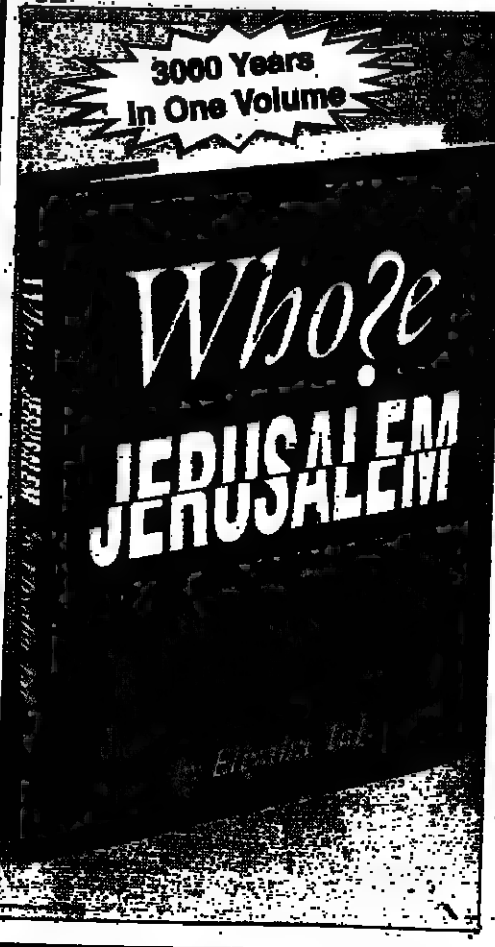
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THE ARTS

No Way to Treat a 'Lady': Pilfering Literature for Movies

By JESSE GREEN

IN A beautiful glade, a dozen young women in jeans and tank tops and diaphanous tunics recline on the grass, smiling enigmatically at one another and at the camera. Soon, some start dancing to the gentle tooting of recorder music. Nearby, one Pre-Raphaelite beauty stretches out catlike on the branch of a sturdy tree as a friend lovingly braids her lustrous hair. Meanwhile, on the soundtrack, we hear disembodied voices speaking frankly of the pleasures and pitfalls of an intimate romantic encounter.

Now take this test: Are we watching (a) a commercial for a feminine-hygiene product, (b) an episode of the all-new "Ellen" or (c) the first scene of a recent film based on a great 19th-century novel?

If you guessed (c) you must have cheated; you've already seen Jane Campion's adaptation of Henry James's "Portrait of a Lady," released on video last week. But calling this Nicole Kidman vehicle an adaptation is like saying that Hitler adapted Poland; what Ms. Campion has done in her "Portrait" is to steal parts of James's plot, make the fascinating Isabel Archer a weepy bore, substitute a blurry, inconsequential vision for the original's shocking clarity — all this and call it homage.

"The Portrait of a Lady" is but one of several recent adaptations — a new version of "Anna Karenina" and the television movie of Louisa May Alcott's "Inheritance" are two other prime examples — in which 19th-century women are improperly exposed in the ironic light of 20th-century values. A serious film maker like Ms. Campion is using that disjunction, however ineptly, to demonstrate the ways in which feminism has and has not altered society in the meantime. But it's easy to understand why less gifted film makers find these stories attractive, too: they have plots that make sense, a built-in audience and roles that look wonderfully juicy, at least on the page.

Unfortunately these attractions also tend to be traps, because the plots are too complicated to be dealt with in 100 minutes and thus get simmered down to a series of syrupy highlights. The built-in audience, too, causes problems, because readers very quickly resent the thumb print of someone else's perusal in what they have come to believe is their very own classic. And though movement coaches can teach Ms. Kidman how to walk while wearing a bustle, most of the contemporary actresses on whom these projects depend do not seem prepared by their years in the gym to understand the less literal constraints of that unemancipated century.

And other centuries are no safer. Films perpetrated upon "Jane Eyre" (1996), "Ethan Frome" (1993) and, most horribly, "The Scarlet Letter" (1995) also find plot-poor directors greedily eyeing old bookshelves, invading other people's lush countryside and pilfering the chandeliers.

NOT that the act of filming a classic novel is *prima facie* evidence of a crime. James Ivory and Ismail Merchant have built an entire industry on thrifty, inoffensive literary borrowings that are always, it somehow seems, returned immediately after use. Similarly, we should not cry too much for Victor Hugo that Disney has made of his gruesome hunchback a highly profitable, pettable gnome; other classics (Jane Austen's "Emma," which was turned into "Clueless" in 1995, comes to mind) have undergone much more radical surgery and survived to tell the tale.

What is finally inexcusable about "The Portrait of a Lady" is not that the material is stolen — what isn't?



Nicole Kidman and John Malkovich in "The Portrait of a Lady" — Several recent movie adaptations prove that you can make a sow's ear out of a silk purse.

— nor even that it is so grossly altered by the imposition of a new esthetic. What is inexcusable is that the film is awful even on its own diminished terms. You can, it turns out, make a sow's ear out of a silk purse.

Of course, "The Portrait of a Lady" is ravishing to the eye; such movies usually are. Ms. Kidman in her spectacularly narrow-waisted

Some directors trash classics simply because 'Melrose Place' is on hiatus and there are a few weeks to kill.

gowns resembles not so much an hourglass as a chalice — a chalice constantly overflowing with tears. Even the fantasy of being fondled by her three spurned suitors (and how Jamesian is that?) fails to raise a smile on her face; by the time John Malkovich locks his tiresome leer on her, you want to give the poor girl a shotgun. What has happened to James's brisk and unconventional huntress?

Is there something punitive in the way contemporary film makers reach back to pre-feminist texts in order to tell stories that feature such elaborately victimized women? Take the awkwardly titled "Leo Tolstoy's Anna Karenina," a case of false advertising if ever there was one. When the title character (played by the exceptionally French Sophie Marceau) flouts society's double standard, she is, like Isabel Archer, undone by the consequences. Also like Isabel, she wears 10-ton gowns, heaves her bosom prettily and can barely get her lips around the stilted Victorian locutions.

But at least in "Portrait" it was clear that Ms. Campion felt something for her heroine, even if what she felt had nothing to do with James. Bernard Rose, who wrote and directed this version of "Anna Karenina," seems largely to have

been scavenging, like a hermit crab, for a convenient story in which to stage a drop-dead photo op. He got it: filmed on hitherto off-limits locations in Moscow and St. Petersburg, this Russian soap opera is as gloriously over the top as a Fabergé egg, but unfortunately as hollow and mechanical too. All the gilded ballrooms and Tchaikovsky excerpts in the world can't give this poor little Anna a heart. When she throws herself under the train, you can't help thinking it's just as well.

What bemoans a legend most? The subordination of content to décor suggests that we are watching here a form of ritual parricide; perhaps the movie should have been called "Bernard Rose's Leo Tolstoy's Anna Karenina." Certainly it would require a good deal of egotistical swagger to take on a text of such immense interior and exterior proportions — a text that had been poorly adapted at least three times already, in versions starring Greta Garbo (1935), Vivien Leigh (1948) and Jacqueline Bisset (1985). Nothing wrong with swagger, of course, but Mr. Rose has a rap sheet on this sort of thing. In his 1995 film "Immortal Beloved" he not only fabricated a life of Beethoven but saturated the soundtrack with his glorious music — an act of hubris akin to stealing Gandhi's dhoti and calling oneself a saint.

Why would a director specifically choose as his source a virtually untranslatable classic? Why would he attempt to honor a powerful text by squeezing it into a format that all but enforces its desecration? Perhaps because he wants to desecrate it. In his book "The Anxiety of Influence," the literary critic Harold Bloom posits an Oedipal theory of belatedness in which younger poets, feeling that the time of greatness has long since ended, attempt to claim the mantle of the masters by ripping it off their corpses. The new poets who will emerge as great are the ones who succeed in this ugly chore.

If Mr. Bloom were a moviegoer, he might have added that the rest would seem either like dilettantes or vultures. In "Leo Tolstoy's Anna Karenina" and "The Portrait of a Lady" we seem to have one of each. "God forgive me everything" are Anna's last words; they should be Mr. Rose's, too.

Of course, not all movie makers who trash classic novels do so out of a fear that the voices of Tolstoy and James will smother their own and so

must be stilled. Some movie makers trash classic novels simply because "Melrose Place" is on hiatus, leaving them with a few weeks to kill. Take the recent television broadcast of "Louisa May Alcott's The Inheritance," a Kraft Premier Movie presentation that should at least win an Emmy for most complicated punctuation. Luckily, since Alcott's first novel has only recently been rediscovered, very few people have had time to develop those annoying preconceptions based on actual reading that interfere with Hollywood's constitutionally guaranteed right to be third-rate. What a find: a virgin classic, ripe for defiling!

To be fair to the people who bring you processed American cheese food, the Alcott story does not rank with the James and Tolstoy novels. Like them, it portrays a smart young woman's struggle to fulfill conventional and unconventional desires in a society that severely restricts both. Unlike them, it is relentlessly senti-

mental, its protagonist's name is Edith, and her most daring defiance of contemporary mores is a refusal to ride sidesaddle in the steeplechase. Indeed, in the major dramatic act of the plot, Edith tries to renounce rather than follow her fate. Naturally enough, she gets her man and her money, and all ends happily.

This is tame stuff — Alcott was only 17 when she wrote it — and so you might expect it to make a charming fairy tale on film. Alas, all it makes is processed American cheese food. This is the kind of movie in which slow motion signifies romance and danger, in which Meredith Baxter (as a New England matriarch) drinks tea and busies herself with the sealing wax. What with all the haughty glances and wooden poses, I began to wonder if Joan Collins was the dramaturg.

Lame stunts, a preposterous variety of sitcom accents, choppy editing and amateur lighting — why is that girl's elbow glowing so furiously? —

almost propel "The Inheritance" into second-class disaster status. Were it not for a single sweet performance, by Carl Shyne as Edith, it might almost have become a classic in its own right. Instead we have the first solid argument in favor of illiteracy: what movie makers can't read they can't destroy.

And yet the process that leads to the desecration of classics is not perceptibly different from the process that leads to classics in the first place, so you can't reasonably attempt to forbid the rash fools from trying. You can, however, prohibit Meredith Baxter from saying things like "My dear, you've outdone yourself again this year!" You can offer matching grants to encourage Jane Campion to return to musical-instrument-themed movies — something like "The Oboe," say.

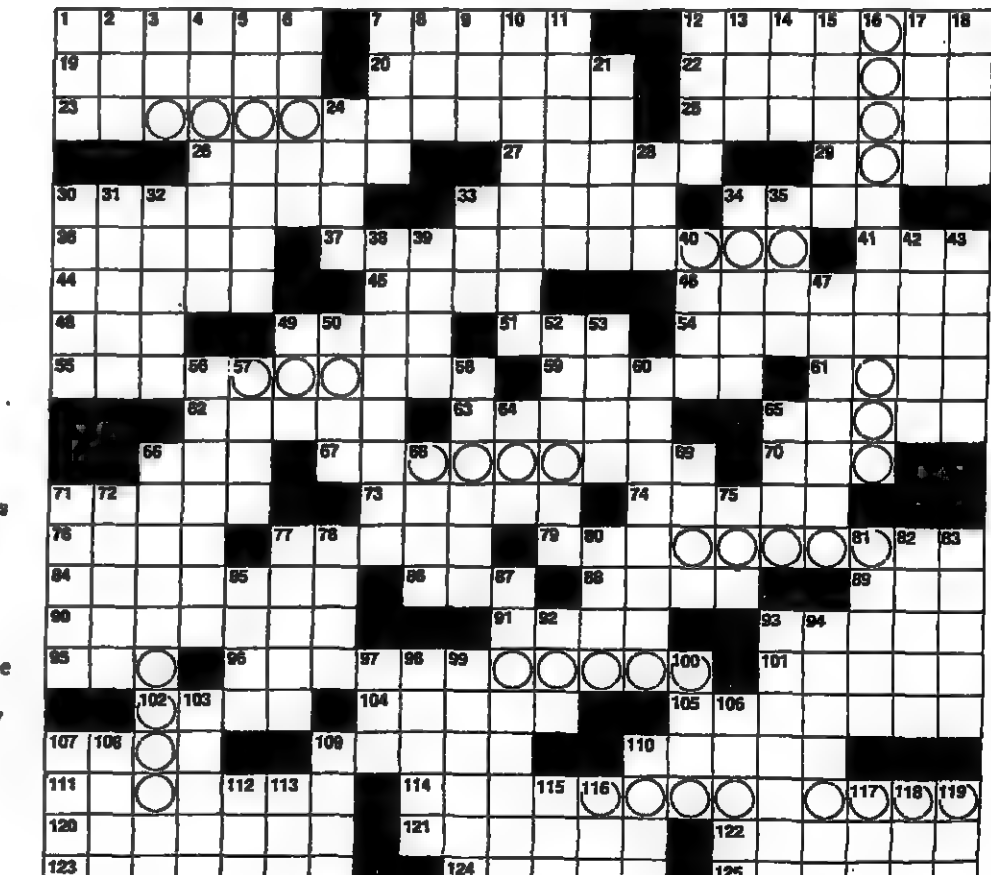
Failing that, it seems inevitable that the most passionate novels will become the coldest, most inarticulate films.

INFESTED!

By NANCY NICHOLSON JOLINE / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

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- 65 Dramatist Lope de
- 66 Like Watergate-era Washington
- 68 Jelder; and Odin
- 69 Knicks great Monroe
- 71 Problem for a lawn mower
- 72 Classify
- 75 Sondheim's "While I'm Around"
- 77 Like some stoves
- 78 Worn
- 80 Cry of Caesar
- 81 Arrive at, as a solution
- 82 It's the law
- 83 Drawer oddments?
- 85 Word with park or plan
- 87 Big circus name
- 92 Bunk
- 93 Whistle-blower
- 94 Valley crosser
- 97 British mil. decoration
- 98 Feet containers
- 99 Maker of the Grand Canyon, in myth
- 100 Touch up
- 103 Shoreline feature
- 106 Upright
- 107 M. Hulot's creator
- 108 "My People" author
- 109 Eye
- 110 Not solid
- 112 Lunch time, maybe
- 113 Chill
- 115 Spots
- 116 Crossed
- 117 They, in Toulon
- 118 U.S.S.R., today
- 119 Essential

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

SHAPBEAN SHAD HADAFIT
LEKALIN LUXE OPALINE
OBORAYE ARISTOPHANE
BRALESS ONTOPOF LISZT
FOOT OLDSMOKEY
PAT NIMBLE TYRES ABE
SHED CLAIRROL OSLO REX
SORE SIDESLIP POPEYE
TYPERA ABOVE TEAOR
IMPALA AVERAGE ISNT
BIB TRVEST LESAGE ODS
LESA CLOTHES EDGEIN
AFUSS UNDER KNAVE
MORAYS SNOWPEAS YBAR
ERE HEAR BOICAGE OLIO
DES GANTY WASALS EWS
HYDIGNITY LEWD
OWITS BENEATH GTEOIO
DANTELOTEGA PROTRUDE
EXALTED ESEL EFFEABLE
JINTHAY DELL DEFEATED



Sophie Marceau in "Leo Tolstoy's Anna Karenina" — A case of false advertising if ever there was one.

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MOVIE REVIEW

Chicago schlock

By ADINA HOFFMAN

Set almost entirely within the walls of a Chicago natural-history museum, Peter Hyams' cleverly trashy new horror-thriller abides by all the rules in the B-movie book. The title, one assumes, is meant to be ironic. Besides the literal relic at the center of the plot — a mysterious and apparently demonic tribal figurine packed in a crate of genetically mutating Brazilian banana leaves — the real relic in question seems to be the picture itself, a neatly constructed, psychologically canny remnant of an antique genre, the funny yet frightening sci-fi flick.

Thanks to the director's willingness to milk the old scare-movie shucks, though, the film moves

THE RELIC

Directed by Peter Hyams. Screenplay by Amy Holden Jones, John Raffo, Rick Jaffa and Amanda Silver. Based on the novel by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child. Hebrew title: *Relic*. 110 minutes. English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Parental guidance strongly advised.

With Penelope Ann Miller, Tom Sizemore, Linda Hunt and James Whitmore

along briskly and unpretentiously. Hyams isn't especially interested in playing with the form or in wowing us with the state-of-the-art technology at his disposal. He'd much prefer to chill us in the traditional manner, with the suspenseful reshuffling of various reliable — and sometimes gross — devices. As is often the case in such pointedly derivative cases, half the fun comes from cringing, roller-coaster-ride-style, in anticipation of the twists, dips, and

lurches that we know are just ahead.

After a museum security guard is decapitated on his nighttime rounds by some superhuman force, it's plain as day that the film's heroine, a perky evolutionary biologist played by Penelope Ann Miller, will be forced by circumstance to abandon the skeptical stance she adopted at the start of the film and run frantically for her life. (Circumstance takes the form here of a lumbering movie monster with a long sticky tongue and knack for evaporation.)

It's also clear that the superstitious beliefs espoused so casually from the outset by the rueful police detective in charge of the case (Tom Sizemore) will come back to haunt him in a very tangible way, and that this process will probably involve the untimely demise of lots of helpless walk-on players — the team of cops, for example, sent down to explore a series of ill-lit underground tunnels. These poor schmucks have been saddled with the thankless task of shining their flashlights into dusty corners as they exchange obvious cue lines like "Did you hear something?" "I didn't hear anything." No sooner have they uttered the words, of course, than the slimy creature rises up to greet them.

The film also relies on the presence of such stock quirky characters as the matronly dwarf of a museum director (Linda Hunt), the coroner with the sick sense of humor, and the kind old anthropology professor (James Whitmore) whose confinement to a wheelchair and resolute belief in the supernatural make him an ideal meal for the hungry beast. When the monster finally opens its jaws wide to bite his head off, the old man's eyes glow with wonder. It's as if he's spent his entire career waiting patiently for this split-second of revelation.



Searching for the slimy creature: Biologist Penelope Ann Miller and detective Tom Sizemore

All these gothic bits and types might seem tired if Hyams weren't so quick on his feet, and so clear about his modest intentions. Working as his own director of photography, he ably stages even

the most familiar-feeling routines with dispatch and technical precision.

After the spooky, suggestive first half, the film reaches its comic climax with a post museum gala gone nightmarishly wrong (the

creature starts eating the guests), and though it flounders a bit in the gorily drawn-out final chase, there's hardly time to quibble. In the end, *The Relic* delivers just what it promised: a good dose of satisfying schlock.

IN TUNE

Badu is bad, and she's converting listeners

By DAVID BRINN

ERYKAH Badu's handlers optimistically compare her to Billie Holiday. And while she's got one of the most distinctive voices out there, the more

BADUISM

Erykah Badu

(Red Axtel)

THE SHOW MUST GO ON

Shirley Bassey

(NMC)

LANGUAGE ELECTRIC

Jhelisa Anderson

(Helicon)

DANS MA CHAIR

Patricia Kaas

(NMC)

obvious comparisons are to Nina Simone and Minnie Riperton, with a touch of Eartha Kitt's purr.

Whatever, the Dallas, Texas native's debut *Baduizm* is a seductive mix of torchy soul ballads with a contemporary hip-hop flavor.

Best typified by the sinuous jazzy grooves of the first single "On & On," *Baduizm* has shot to the top of the American R&B and pop charts. It's not hard to understand why, as she's unlike anyone else on the contemporary R&B scene. This is the kind of earthy and natural music that sounds just right in a dark, smoky club with some imported beer.

Be warned, Badu is bad and she's out to convert listeners to *Baduizm*. Shirley Bassey used to make the kind of music my parents listened to. And now on *The Show Must Go On*, the veteran crooner is covering tunes by Chrissie Hynde and Sting. And doing a credible job at it. The accompaniment is still out of a Las Vegas orchestra pit, but



Erykah Badu: A Texan answer to Nina Simone

Bassey's enthusiastic delivery transcends the showbiz trappings, especially on the opener "Save the Rhythm."

Occasionally she stretches too far, like with Queen's "The Show Must Go On," but her attempts at schmaltzy ballads like Lionel Richie's "Hello" and Bob Seger's "We've Got Tonight" hit their spotlit mark.

It's not exactly a comeback on par with Tony Bennett's, but it's nice to hear a real star at work.

POOR Jhelisa Anderson. Someone has either convinced her that music is simply the weaving of certain ostensibly pleasant sounding noises into a cacophonous melange, or she slipped up somewhere between her American gospel roots, her L.A. adolescence and recent London sojourn.

Her new album, *Language Electric*, is an eclectic collection of various musical styles that at their very best are merely somewhat entertaining, and most of the time are tedious, boring, or worse. "Freedom from Pity" and "Sell Me

Away" sound like the standard R&B refashions one hears on Radio Jordan's pop show.

Anderson is at her best when she sings jazzy works like "That's Bullshit Woody," a piece that allows Jhelisa to display her talent in a style reminiscent of Chaka Khan. Unfortunately, this is the sole bright spot on what is overall a mediocre album.

PATRICIA Kaas is a huge star in her native France, and on *Dans Ma Chair*, she's hooked up with renowned producer Phil Ramone (of Paul Simon and Billy Joel fame) to reach beyond her borders. However, there's nothing in the bland material or Kaas's nondescript delivery which indicate a breakthrough is imminent.

Even a duet in English with James Taylor on "Don't Let Me Be Lonely Tonight" is more of an oddity than a high spot. This is strictly middle of the road.

The crazy world of Roseanne

The stories surrounding Roseanne's battles to keep creative control of *Roseanne* were infamous, but her off-screen antics often surpassed them.

She sparked a national outrage in 1990 when she screeched the national anthem, then scratched her crotch and spit, before a baseball game in San Diego. She said that it was meant as a joke, but even President Bush criticized her. Then in 1991 she said that she was an incest survivor, engaging in a public dispute with her parents and sister, who denied the allegation.

But perhaps the most notorious period was when Roseanne became involved with comedian Tom Arnold, whom she married in January 1990.

The couple, who appeared to be inseparable soul mates, often propelled themselves into the news with publicity stunts — mooning television cameras at a baseball game to expose their tattoos, mud-wrestling on the cover of *Vanity Fair*, firing off angry faxes to television critics.

Arnold became an executive producer of *Roseanne* and took almost total control of his wife's career. She dedicated her 1994 autobiography *My Lives* to him, writing, "You and I are our own garden."

Their shenanigans became the basis for two television movies, by NBC and Fox. The couple developed two vehicles for Arnold — *The Jackie Thomas Show* for ABC and *Tom* for CBS. Both flopped.

But the most bizarre note came when Roseanne filed for divorce in April 1994, claiming that Arnold had been physically and emotionally abusive to her. Three days later, she dropped the divorce petition and publicly apologized to Arnold, recanting her claims. About three weeks later, Roseanne refilled for divorce. Arnold has since remarried and stars in the current movie *McHale's Navy*.

Asked about those stormy years, Roseanne doesn't refer to Arnold by name but says she has no regrets. "I don't even know what regret means, because you can't change anything," she said. "But it was just a real crazy time. It was a hurricane. I got caught in the middle of something, and it was so huge and so unstop-

pable it was like a speeding train. It was just so out of my control in every way, and I think a lot of my behavior is reflected there. I couldn't find the place to stand still."

Her voice grew softer as she continued: "There was a lot of turmoil, fear of just being flying through space with no anchor at all. I've seen it happen to other people when they start to get famous or they have great success. I think a lot of people just spin so far out of control that they die. I mean it's just like being an alien from Mars. And I did. I felt just like I was from another planet."

A turning point came in 1995 after getting pregnant by Ben Thomas, her former bodyguard



Roseanne felt she was from another planet.

and future husband. "The doctor told me I was in danger of losing that pregnancy, so I had to go to bed for, like, 8 to 10 weeks," Roseanne recalled.

"I was trying not to let go of the show, but I had to make a decision to just let it go, which was really the hardest thing ever. And I did."

"At first I thought it would be devastating, but it wasn't. It was a profound spiritual centering, that pregnancy. I realized that my mind controlled my body. And if you look back, that is when all that crazy stuff stopped. That baby was the beginning of my feeling OK in my skin and my voice and my also feeling that there is a future. I had gone over the mountain, and I lived..." (Los Angeles Times)

It ain't over till the fit lady sings

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

After many years of disappointment, American soprano Alessandra Marc decided to take things into her own hands. Angry and frustrated that many critics, conductors and opera-house managers refer first and foremost to the size of her body and only afterwards to her voice, she embarked on a private campaign titled "The opera isn't over 'til the fit lady sings," in order to lose 100 pounds (37 kg.) over the course of the next few years.

She proudly says she has already lost 35 pounds (13 kg.). Marc is currently in Israel singing the title role in Bellini's

ple on stage in many opera houses like Sharon Sweet, Jessye Norman and Pavarotti. I'm the chosen one and I've given up on trying to understand why. There's a lot of hypocrisy at play here. If you have box-office appeal or if management believes you do, then you are engaged."

And Marc cannot hide the fact that it hurts to be treated, or rather not treated that way. "I'm a human being, I'm sensitive; of course it hurts."

The one country in which Marc does sing regularly is Italy, which she believes is "one of the last places in which the singing only counts."

But in fact she realizes now that there is more to a career than pure singing.

"The new slogan is only a means to an end. I plan to do it slowly, not endangering my stamina and singing."

Marc's voice is not immediately associated with the role of Norma, but she says she now feels it sits pretty well within her range. A role she would have loved singing here, and which she sings regularly all over the world, is that of Turandot in Puccini's final opera.

"The IPO is doing it with [conductor Zubin] Mehta at the end of the season but Mehta is angry with me and so I was not invited."

After singing several times with Mehta, Marc explains, there was a misunderstanding about a recording of the Verdi requiem which she was supposed to do with him. The project did not materialize but Mehta was apparently annoyed that a few months earlier Marc recorded the same piece with Daniel Barenboim.

"I hope Mehta reads this and learns that I had no intention of hurting him. My agents were supposed to deal with all that and apparently they did not, which is why I have new agents now. It was nothing but a misunderstanding and I sincerely hope it changes because I do want to sing with him."

Marc says that in order to sing in more opera houses "the pressure is on me to conform and I will do it to a point. In spite of the fact that we have large, peo-

Habimah's recovery; the Khan's hot ticket

By HELEN KAYE

The *Dybbuk*, new plays by Hanech Levin, Ami Dayan and Gilad Evron. Greek classics in a contemporary vein, more classy high jinks from Young Habimah, special projects galore and a couple of musicals are among the many offerings that will provide a wide spectrum of theatrical fare for the '97-'98 season at the Habimah National Theater.

Ansky's *The Dybbuk*, with the late Hannah Rovina as the possessed Leah, passed into Habimah legend long ago. Director Hanech Levin seeks "to demystify the play," which will premiere this October as the opening salvo of the theater's salute to its 80th year.

Levin will direct his new play, *Ho'chim Behushech* ("Walking in the Dark"), a comedy-turned-drama. Shmuel Vilosny will direct Ami Dayan's political satire, *The Candidate*, about a telegraphic neophyte who aspires to political office; and, in *The Satan of Chaitlin*, Gilad Evron creates another political parable.

Director Ilan Ronen, who took Young Habimah under his wing last year in order to train a new generation of actors, continues his double bill of productions and continuing education with his own adaptation of *Catch-22* and a two-part dramatization of *The Jewish Wars* by renegade Jew Yosef ben Mattityahu, otherwise known as Josephus Flavius. The children also get workshops in stagecraft, from speech to war games.

The special projects include a quartet of satirical plays by German anti-fascist Carl Sternheim to be produced in collaboration with the Tel Aviv University theater department. They outline the fall to fascism of the German middle class, and were written in the '20s.

Offbeat actor Doron Tavori is the prime mover of this project together with his ex-boss at the Beersheba Theater, Gad: Roll.

And, not least, there'll be an original Israeli musical based on Eli Ahar's book about Iraqi children in the '50s, and in another co-production with the Haifa Theater, *Oliver*, with Shlomo Bar-Abba as Fagin and Riki Gal as Nancy will premiere next June.

Habimah general manager Yutakov Agmon said that in marked contrast to previous years, the theater ended 1996 with a NIS 2 million operating surplus and that there are 27,000 subscribers, 5,000 of whom are students and soldiers. Habimah's '97 budget is NIS 20m, of which NIS 22m is from public funding.

The upbeat atmosphere at Habimah today is in marked contrast to December 31, 1995, the day that Judge Yishai Levi saved the theater. His ruling ended a snarling two-day court battle, not to mention filibusters from government lawyers, that left management and employees exhausted and almost terminally demoralized.

"I wouldn't wish the last eight months on my worst enemy," Agmon had said at the time.

On the financial side for years due to atrocious management, the theater had been forced to declare bankruptcy in August and tough-minded attorney Shmuel Tzur was appointed public receiver. He, Agmon, the designated state knight who'd taken over the previous February 1, and the Treasury threatened a four-year recovery program which involved government loans, massive salary and other cost cutbacks, as well as creditor rebates to manage a deficit that had ballooned to between NIS 27m and NIS 30m.

"We are in total compliance with all conditions of the recovery plan," said Tzur last week, "and we are on schedule. The courts will have to decide when to rescind receivership but we are negotiat-



"The quality of the plays has improved," says Habimah veteran Dov Reiser here in 'Alei Kinor' from 1989.

ing to stretch the theater as a public company rather than its existing trust. Tzur will file a petition to get the theater back to bankruptcy court and will not accept its petition. We hope to spend the next few months on the matter."

Agmon, Habimah veteran, who is now acting as a representative of the theater, said that the audience is growing and the quality of the plays has improved. "There is a feeling of optimism and collaboration," said he. "Doron Tavori, who played the lead in *Man of the Year* and *Life*, Habimah's recent hit."

One of the backstage greats of the theater, more than the 1997-98 season

at Habimah will provide a jump start towards reclamation of its title as the country's flagship theater.

MEANWHILE, Ofira Henig, director of the watershed hit production *Anna Galante* for the Khan Theater, who has been artistic director of the Jerusalem theater for a year, last week revealed the lineup for its 1997-'98 season.

In marked contrast to Habimah, where women directors, playwrights and so forth are as scarce as hen's teeth, the Khan lineup is fairly femino-centric, although "I don't wake up in the morning and think about that," laughs Henig.

The little company — there are 18 actors — produces five new plays a season. Anouilh's *Antigone*, directed by Gedalia Basser will open the season in September, followed in December by *The Virgin from Ludmir* by Yosefa Even-Shoshan and directed by Henig.

This is one of two original plays which the Khan has been nursing since last year. The other is *Green, Celophane*, by Heli Gonen. Even-Shoshan's play touches on religious coercion and male interpretation of Halakha, while Gonen's play focuses on sexual abuse in the army.

Other plays in the roster include *Blue Remembrance Hills* by the late Dennis Portman, Mark Ravenhill's *Shopping and Fucking*, about disaffected youth, like his *Push* (1995), and Ionesco's *Rhinoceros*, which will be a co-production with the Israeli Festival or the Jerusalem Theater in May '98.

And the same month, Doron Tavori will star in Heiner Müller's *Quartet*, his take on the gender wars to be directed by Poland's Krystian Lupa.

But for now, *Vera Galante* is the hot ticket. The play will be presented at the Khan Theater in June, July and August, and has been invited to the Brussels Festival next spring.

BUSINESS

in brief

British inflation pressures ease in April

British factory-gate prices showed their slowest rate of increase for more than 10 years in April, according to official figures published, indicating that inflationary pressures remain subdued.

Economists said the weaker-than-expected figures meant the Bank of England, which was last week given freedom to set interest rates by the new Labor government, was unlikely to tighten monetary policy aggressively. *Reuters*

Telefonica profits still strong after privatization

Spain's Telefonica de Espana reported a 15.7 percent jump in first-quarter profits yesterday, just weeks after privatization and news of a key alliance with British Telecommunications and US-based MCI. The telecommunications giant said its group attributable profit rose 15.7% to 27.87 billion pesetas (\$195.2 million) in the first quarter, less than an expected rise of some 20%. *Reuters*

US watches EU closely on Boeing merger

The Clinton administration, spurred by a bipartisan group of senators, warned yesterday that it was watching the European Union closely to be sure it weighs the merger of Boeing Co. and McDonnell Douglas Corp. objectively. "We have made it clear to EU officials that it is essential that extraneous factors play no role in the commission's competition analysis of this merger and that we are watching that process closely," an administration official said.

Like the US, Europe has an authority that reviews business combinations for their effect on competition. The European Union is reviewing the merger because Boeing does a brisk business with European airlines. It has authority to impose a fine equal to 10 percent of Boeing's annual gross world income if it decides the merger is anti-competitive.

Boeing and McDonnell Douglas late last year announced their merger, which would narrow the number of American producers of large passenger jets from two to one. That has raised questions in Europe about the effect on the European consortium manufacturing airlines, Airbus Industrie. In Brussels, a source close to the competition minister said Monday the merger investigation was being conducted objectively. A bipartisan group of seven senators, most of them from states where Boeing has large plants, have signed a letter to President Clinton accusing the EU of prejudging the matter. *Reuters*

Banks of Russia, Chechnya in cooperation deal

The heads of the Russian Central Bank and the National Bank, which acts as a central leader in the separatist Russian region of Chechnya, signed a cooperation accord in Moscow yesterday, Russian news agencies said. The one-year accord follows a peace deal and a framework economic cooperation accord signed earlier yesterday and aimed at regulating relations between Moscow and the breakaway region after a 21-month bloody war which ended last August.

The banking accord says that all payments between the Russian and Chechen governments would be done through an account the Chechen bank would open with the Central Bank in Moscow. But the region's bank would directly control the banking sector in Chechnya, the agencies quoted Russian Central Bank Chairman Sergei Dubinin as saying. Chechnya's bank is not part of the Russian Central Bank's system, he said. *Reuters*

Dollar plunges 4.3% in Asia before stabilizing in Europe

LONDON (Reuters) - The dollar was pulled in opposite directions yesterday, stabilizing in the European markets after wallowing against the yen in a steep slide in Asia.

By the European close it was at 118.86 yen. The dollar had dropped as low as 117.50 yen in Tokyo, after trading at 122.86 at the close of trading there on Friday, before recovering on prof-

it-taking and supportive comments by Japanese officials.

The US currency last traded below 118 yen in Tokyo on January 22.

It began to recover yesterday after Finance Minister Hiroshi Mitsuzuka and Eisuke Sakakibara, a senior Finance Ministry official, both said trading would likely stabilize.

Sakakibara, the influential Japanese finance official who

floored dollar/yen last week with his mention of a possible rate of 103, said the dollar was likely to "settle down soon."

Against the mark, the dollar shook off a weak European start to climb the best part of two pence on the day.

On the crosses, the mark plunged to a low of 69.67 yen before edging back to 69.78, more than 2-1/2 yen below Friday's

session high.

"The mark/yen move is probably the preferred move for the authorities," said Standard

Chartered treasury economist Tim Fox. "The Japanese are happy with a stronger yen and the Germans are reasonably happy with a weaker mark against the yen."

The dollar firmed to 1.7035 marks from late Friday's

European level of 1.6843. It had fallen as low as 1.6680 marks in Asia overnight, according to Bank of Japan data.

Elsewhere, sterling leaped two pence in late Europe after finance minister Gordon Brown said Britain had no plans to rejoin Europe's exchange rate mechanism. But two-year membership of the ERM was not essential for EMU participation, Brown said.

UK's Guinness, GrandMet merger to create world's seventh-largest food firm

By EDITH LEDERER

LONDON (AP) - Guinness PLC and Grand Metropolitan PLC announced plans yesterday for a £21 billion merger that would create the world's seventh-largest food and drinks company.

If shareholders and regulatory officials agree to the stock swap, a new company called GMG Brands will be created with 85,000 employees and world-class brands such as Johnnie Walker, Guinness, Moet and Chandon, Burger King, Pillsbury and Haagen-Dazs.

"Our new group will be one of the leading food and drink groups in the world, and scale is critical to compete globally in these markets today," GrandMet chairman George Bull told a news conference. "It's win-win for both sets of shareholders. There is no premium being paid by one set of shareholders to the other. ... This is a true partnership."

Under the proposed merger, GrandMet shareholders will hold 52.7 percent of GMG Brands and Guinness shareholders 47.3%.

The companies gave pre-merger notification to the European Union last week and expressed optimism that regulatory agencies and shareholders would approve the deal.

But the merger may not take place until the end of the year, said Guinness finance director Phil Yea, who would become group finance director of the new company.

Bull said the combined market capitalization of £21b., based on share prices at the close of business Friday, would make GMG Brands the eighth-largest company in Britain.

It would also be the seventh-largest food and drinks company in the world, behind Coca Cola, Philip Morris, Pepsico, Unilever, Nestle and McDonald's, he said.

Under the merger plan, GMG Brands will have four divisions - United Distillers and Vintners known as UDV, the combined



Grand Metropolitan chairman George Bull (left) and chief executive John McGrath (center) pose with Guinness chairman Anthony Greener before a news conference announcing that the two companies have agreed to terms of a proposed merger yesterday. *(Reuters)*

wine and spirits business; Pillsbury; Burger King; and Guinness Brewing Worldwide.

Guinness's spirits business - United Distillers - includes the Johnnie Walker and Bell's whiskeys brands, while UDV, GrandMet's business, includes Smirnoff vodka and J and B Rare

whisky. "UDV will be the world's leading spirits and wine company," Bull said, with between 5% and 10% of the market depending on whether cheap locally produced brews are included.

GrandMet Chief Executive John McGrath, who will keep the

same job in the new company, said approximately 2,000 of the 20,000 jobs in the combined worldwide spirits business would be lost in the merger.

Bull said he and Guinness Chairman Tony Greener first talked about the merger last month. He said there was very lit-

tle overlap in their businesses and they shared the same philosophy - "market-oriented, led by consumers."

The two companies said the merger should generate operating cost savings of £175 million annually, starting in the third year of trading.

Analysts: Socialist election victory may boost Paris shares

By MARCEL MICHELSON

PARIS (Reuters) - If the left win the French parliamentary election the Paris bourse could slide in a knee-jerk reaction but rise in the longer term, share analysts said yesterday.

Were the current center-right majority to win the May 25 and June 1 two-round poll, the share market would stay in its current valuation range.

But in the unlikely event of a more liberal center-right government team being put in power after the elections, the share mar-

ket could rally, they said.

Francois Langlade-Demoyen, market strategist at Credit Suisse First Boston in London, said that if a Socialist and Communist coalition won there would be an immediate fall in share prices of at least 10 percent.

"There are four main dangers. The postponement or cancelling of tax reforms, the end of moves toward greater labor flexibility, the postponement or cancelling of the privatization program and the postponement or cancelling of creating pension funds," he said.

The Socialists have said they would stop the current privatization program, mainly the June France Telecom sale, and scrap a pension fund law allowing the creation of private pensions which would be able to invest in shares.

For him, a more economically liberal government which would increase labor market flexibility and promote shareholder value, would be a boon to the market.

"This scenario has the lowest probability," he said, adding he would "massively increase" his end-of-year target for the CAC-40 index from his current 2,650 goal.

Gary Dugan, market strategist at

J.P. Morgan in London, said that if the left were to win there would be a negative knee-jerk reaction "but in a six month period it could be positive."

Dugan said that if a Socialist government were perceived as willing to let the franc slip slightly this could boost shares.

J.P. Morgan recently changed its recommendation for France to "neutral" from "underweight," and Dugan said the investment bank would reiterate the rating after the election, even if the Socialists won.

Jacques Chahine, who tracks analysts' and fund managers' opinions in France, said if the Socialists won, French fund managers see the CAC-40 falling to 2,400 and the 10-year government bond rate rising to 6.5 percent, from 5.58% now.

If the center-right would remain in power, the CAC-40 could go to 2,950-3,000, with the long rate down to 5.5%.

"There is still a lot of potential in the French stock market where profits are seen rising more than in other countries," Chahine said.

A victory by the current center-right team would, according to Langlade-Demoyen, lead to a

short term and short-lived five percent increase. "Nice for a trader but for portfolio managers the situation remains unchanged," he said.

Such a win would favor industries like the banking and insurance sector, steel and cars, retailing while it would weigh on the health sector, he said.

Michel Lutfalla, director of economic research at insurance group AXA, said the markets were not afraid of a Socialist win, because

they believed the party had to be pragmatic and could not implement its entire program.

The French stock market has not yet reacted much to the election campaign.

The blue-chip CAC-40 index closed at 2,522.67 on April 21 before President Jacques Chirac called the snap poll, rose to a close at 2,651.93 on May 6 before slipping on opinion polls giving the center-right a narrow lead.

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ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS				
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375	
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250	
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.625	1.825	2.125	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.625	0.750	1.000	
Yen (10 million yen)				
(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)				
Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (9.5.97)				
CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.
Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	3.6492	3.7081	—	3.6877
U.S. dollar	3.3649	3.4192	3.30	3.3900
German mark	1.9750	2.0089	1.94	1.9961
Pound sterling	5.4704	5.5587	5.37	5.5244
French franc	0.6861	0.6946	0.67	0.6915
Japanese yen (100)	2.7418	2.7861	2.68	2.7719
Dutch florin	1.7535	1.7839	1.72	1.7735
Swiss franc	2.3333	2.3710	2.28	2.3584
Swedish krona	0.4381	0.4482	0.43	0.4426
Norwegian krona	0.4783	0.4840	0.46	0.4815
Danish krona	0.5187	0.5271	0.50	0.5241
Finland mark	0.6839	0.6945	0.64	0.6807
Canadian dollar	2.4298	2.5610	2.37	2.5439
Australian dollar	2.8187	2.8990	2.68	2.8551
S. African rand	0.7538	0.7658	0.68	0.7077
Belgian franc (10)	0.9588	0.9723	0.94	0.969
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8061	2.8514	2.75	2.8063
Italian lire (1000)	1.9922	2.0274	1.98	2.0184
Jordanian dinar	4.8225	4.8855	4.68	4.8436
Egyptian pound	0.9600	1.0400	0.98	1.0327
ECU	3.8432	3.9052	—	3.8839
Irish punt	5.0861	5.1783	5.00	5.1410
Spanish peseta (100)	2.3380	2.3758	2.29	2.3623

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Figure 5.2

NASDAQ		
Account Software	1.8875	-0.15625
A.G. Associates	5.375	-0.125
Baytel	12	-0.5
Compul	14.5	-0.125
Craxiom	1.375	-0.125
Enzym	1.125	-0.15625
Inter Online Solutions	5.95	-0.25

[illegible][illegible]

Company	1995	1996
Danaher (Hain)	\$4.5	-0.25
Danaher Reg	35.625	-0.125
Danaher (RR)	75.125	0.125
Dover Corp	35	+0.175
Dow Chemicals	88.875	0
Dow Jones	30.75	+0.525
Dresser	30	-0.875
DSC Comm	29.5	-0.525
Dynalene	36	-0.575
E & S Broadcast	75.125	0.25
East Point	110.875	-2.375
E & G & Corp	20.125	-0.375
Eastern Ent	35.25	+0.625
Eastern Nodak	80.875	-0.875
Easton Corp	70.125	+1.125
Eastman Kodak	70.125	+0.25
Emerson Elec	52.875	-0.25
Engelhard Corp	20.125	0
Entel Corp	40.875	+0.825
Essex Corp	21.875	-0.375

McKesson Corp.	72.75	+2.25
Meat Corp.	54.66	+0.75
Metricone	-	-
Mellon BK.	36.75	+1.525
Meritor Graphics	43.75	+1.00
Mercantile Sls.	43.75	+1.00
Merck Inc.	92.00	+2.75
Merrell Corp.	23.75	-
Merrill Lynch	59.50	+2.00
Metrom Tech Intl.	35.00	+1.25
Microsoft Corp.	118.25	+7.75
Millipore	42.50	-
Mine Safety Appt.	40.00	+1.00
Minnesota Mine	22.75	+0.75
MITCHELL Energy	50.00	+1.50
Mobile Corp.	34.00	+1.00
Mobile Telecom	42.00	+1.00
Mobex Inc.	34.50	+0.75
Monarch Metals	47.975	-
Monroe	24.75	-
Monroe Mfg.	100.25	+7.75

	LAST	CHANGES
Sun Microsystems	36.9625	-0.3125
Sunstar	53.675	-0.875
SynGene	31.975	-0.5
Synthetic	16.76	-0.125
Sysco Corp	47.5	+1
T.D.K. Cos Inc.	47.5	+0.5
TRW Inc	54.75	+1.75
Tro Products	9.375	-0.125
Truform	14.375	-0.75
Trucon Corp	14	-0.25
Unidy Corp	50.5	+1.625
Telecom Corp	14.625	-0.125
Tele-Data	21.875	+1.5
Temple Island	25.75	-0.25
Tenneco	21.875	-0.125
Tenneco	36.75	-0.375
Tenneco Pol	12.25	-0.125
Teneco	112.625	-0.375
Tesco Instruments	90.25	-2.625
Texas Instruments	33.5	-0.5

Euro stocks hit highs as Wall Street rallies

The star performer was drinks and luxury goods company LVMH, which holds 14% of Guinness. It jumped 4.93% to 1,446 francs.

Traders said LVMH would benefit from a re-evaluation of its stake in Guinness and the merger with Grand Met could open up new outlets for LVMH brands.

By the European close, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 86.96 points, or 1.21% and 7,256.49.

Several brokerages raised their

between 4,800 and 5,000 points from around 4,500, factoring in higher yields on British government bonds.

"We think there is room for growth... because we haven't got the technical signs that outline the introduction of a bear market," said Philip Woistencroft. Merrill

WALL STREET REPORT

Dow hi

Dow hits record on inflation hopes

Investors are hoping the data will reinforce recent indications that the economy's vigorous pace is easing enough to keep inflationary pressures under control without higher interest rates.

The markets have rallied back from a steep slide in late March and early April as investors grew less fearful that the Federal Reserve will raise its key lending rates aggressively.

Fed officials, who raised one of the central bank's interest rates in late March, are scheduled to meet again on May 20.

The Standard and Poor's 500 list rose 12.88 to 837.66, and the NYSE composite index rose 6.34 to 435.57. Both measures set new highs.

Museums
TEL AVIV MUSEUM. Andres Serrano: The Morgue. Soviet Photography from the Museum collection. Lucian Freud: selection of works. Tzvi Harker:

Israeli artists. Virtual Reality: The domestic and realistic in contemporary Israeli art. HELENA RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. Shlomo Ben-David and Amnon Ben-David, The Inverted Campaign. Hours: Weekdays 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meyerhoff Art Education Center, Tel. 8919155-8.

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Beit She'an 6525133	Petah Tikva 9511111
Dan 9790333	Qalqilya 9641333
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Jerusalem 025-5558, Haifa 053-0533,
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Hadassah Medical Organization -
Israel Cancer Association support ser-
vice 02-624-7876).

Among those Peres conferred with were Zvilli, Sneh, Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg, and MKs Moshe Shaha'i, Rafi

The Barak side had already placed an enormous hurdle before Zivli by getting the convention steering committee to refuse to place the proposal on the convention agenda. Zivli could, however, circumvent the committee with the support of 10 percent of the 3,700 delegates.

portfolio after the latter was indicated, but with the clear implication that it was a caretaker assignment pending the return of Netanyahu's term. No amount of acquaintances could thus trigger a cabinet reshuffle that would set Netanyahu's face for Netanyahu, and which Netanyahu could explain away, sources close to the prime minister said.

His name is again being mentioned for the UN post, although Bar-Ilan is reportedly not keen on the idea. And while Gold is reportedly the leading candidate to replace Ben-Elissar, Foreign Minister David Levy has not been heard on that yet.

Unlike previous governments, in this one the foreign minister has veto power over appointments of ambassadors to the UN and the U.S., both of which used to be the sole prerogative of the prime minister. Levy secured this veto power for himself in the coalition agreement.

This may complicate the search for a replacement for Ben-Elissar.

P A C
M E D
INVESTMENTS

Bulls top Hawks for 3-1 lead

ATLANTA (AP) — Scottie Pippen and Michael Jordan were back in their familiar roles Sunday, leading the Chicago Bulls to an 89-80 victory over the Atlanta Hawks and firm control of the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Jordan scored 27 points and Pippen added 26 in a superb all-around game as the Bulls rolled to a 3-1 lead in the best-of-7 series. Chicago can wrap it up when the teams return to the United Center in Chicago tonight for Game 5.

Shaken by a rare home playoff loss Thursday that evened the series, the Bulls beat one of the best home teams in the league on consecutive days and showed they have every intention of making a run for their fifth NBA championship in seven years.

Trailing by as many as 24 points in the second half, the Hawks made a serious run at the Bulls in the fourth quarter. A 16-2 spurt brought Atlanta within 83-80 in the final minute, but Jordan hit two free throws, Ron Harper made two more and Jordan closed it with a steal and dunk.

Rockets 110, Sonics 106 (OT) Rookie Matt Maloney put visiting Houston ahead in overtime with his eighth 3-pointer of the game, as the Rockets took a 3-1 lead in their Western Conference semifinal series.

The Rockets, who didn't win the game in regulation because Charles Barkley missed two free throws with 11 seconds left, can wrap up the series with a win in

Game 5 in Houston tonight. Seattle's Hersey Hawkins sent the game into overtime when he hit a 3-pointer from the left corner with 2.4 seconds left.

Knicks 77, Heat 73 Patrick Ewing blocked Tim Hardaway's 3-point attempt with three seconds left to preserve New York's homecourt victory. It gave New York a 2-1 advantage heading into Game 4 last night at Madison Square Garden.

The Knicks made only five field goals in the fourth quarter and none in the final 6:20, but they also held Miami to just two baskets over the final 12 minutes and zero points in the final 2:50.

Ewing led New York with 25 points and 11 rebounds and again outplayed his counterpart, Alonzo Mourning. Mourning had 14 points and seven rebounds and was not a factor in the fourth quarter.

Allan Houston added 13 points and John Starks had 11, including three free throws with 2:42 left to give New York a 76-73 lead.

NBA Playoff Glance
SECOND ROUND (Best-of-7)
Saturday's results: Chicago 100, Atlanta 80; Utah 110, LA Lakers 95 (Utah leads series 3-1).

Sunday's results: New York 77, Miami 73 (New York leads series 2-1); Houston 110, Seattle 106 OT (Houston leads series 3-1); Chicago 89, Atlanta 80 (Chicago leads series 3-1).

Last night's Miami at New York, LA Lakers at Utah.
Today: Atlanta at Chicago, Seattle at Houston.

Conference finals set in NHL

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Rangers and Philadelphia Flyers have met many times in the playoffs, just never this far along.

The Colorado Avalanche and Detroit Red Wings played just last year, and they can't wait to play again.

The Rangers, Flyers and Avalanche all finished off their semifinal opponents in a Game 5 on Sunday.

The Rangers reached the third round by beating the Eastern Conference-regular season champion Devils 2-1 in overtime to win the best-of-7 series 4-1. The Flyers, as expected, knocked off Buffalo 6-3 to take that series 4-1.

Colorado edged Edmonton 4-3 for a 4-1 series victory.

The Rangers and Flyers, who last played in the postseason in 1995, will face off in the East finals starting Friday in Philadelphia. The Avalanche and Red Wings meet in a rematch of last year's bitter six-game West finals. The Avalanche-Red Wings series begins Thursday in Colorado.

Benson and Hedges Cup results

Group A: Leeds (Headingley): Yorkshire beat Minor Counties by 184 runs. Yorkshire 309-5 innings closed (A. McGrath 109 not out, D. Byas 72). Minor Counties 125 (S. Dean 56).

Manchester (Old Trafford): Lancashire beat Worcestershire by losing less wickets. Lancashire 274-6 innings closed (N. Fairbrother 75 not out, J. Gallian 59). Worcestershire 274-8 innings closed (T. Moody 92).

Group B: Northampton: Northamptonshire beat Leicestershire by 52 runs. Northamptonshire 238-8 innings closed, Leicestershire 186-8 innings closed (N. Johnson 58; J. Snape 5-32).

Group C: London (The Oval): Surrey beat Sussex by 11 runs. Surrey 310-8 innings closed (G. Thorpe 78, A. Stewart 74; P. Jarvis 4-60). Sussex 299 (N. Taylor 67, R. Rao 61, M. Newell 60; L. Salisbury 4-53). Oxford (The Parks): Hampshire beat British Universities by seven wickets. British Universities 284-8 innings closed (T. Hodgson 113, U. Rashid 82). Hampshire 287-3 (M. Hayden 120 not out, G. White 56). Bristol: Kent 239-7 innings closed (G. Cowdrey 77). Gloucestershire 25-0.

Group D: London (Lord's): Somerset 172-4 (P. Bowler 54 not out, M. Burns 54) v Middlesex.

Boro relegated, Magpies runnerup

LONDON (AP) — Middlesbrough, who have made both domestic cup finals but had three league points deducted for calling off a game without permission, were relegated from the Premier League Sunday after a 1-1 tie with Leeds.

Bryan Robson's team needed a victory at Elland Road to have a chance of staying up and, despite an equalizer by Brazilian star Juninho, could only come up with a tie.

The three points, deducted by the Premier League after Robson called off a game against Blackburn because he had 23 players injured or sick, made all the difference.

They would have been enough for survival but instead, Robson's team, who include stars such as Juninho and Emerson and Italian striker Fabrizio Ravanelli, will play Division One instead of Premier League soccer next season and there is speculation that the well-paid overseas stars won't stay.

Boro's millionaire owner Steve Gibson may go to court to get the three points back having already lost an appeal to soccer's administrators.

Boro go down with neighbor Sunderland and already-doomed Nottingham Forest. Sunderland went down 1-0 at Wimbledon thanks to Jason Euell's strike four minutes from the end. Coventry survived after a 2-1 win at Tottenham and so did Southampton, despite a 1-0 loss at Aston Villa.

Middlesbrough fans stood in tears at the end of the game and Juninho lay on the field utterly dejected.

The only consolation for Middlesbrough, who lost to Leicester in the League Cup final, is that it will enter the Cup Winners Cup if it beats Chelsea in Saturday's FA Cup final at Wembley.

Meanwhile Newcastle will join titlist Manchester United in next season's European Champions Cup after a 5-0 victory over already relegated Nottingham Forest. The win meant it finished runnerup.

Faustino Asprilla led the goal-ramp at St. James Park and there were two goals from Les Ferdinand, including his 100th in the Premier League and 50th for Newcastle.

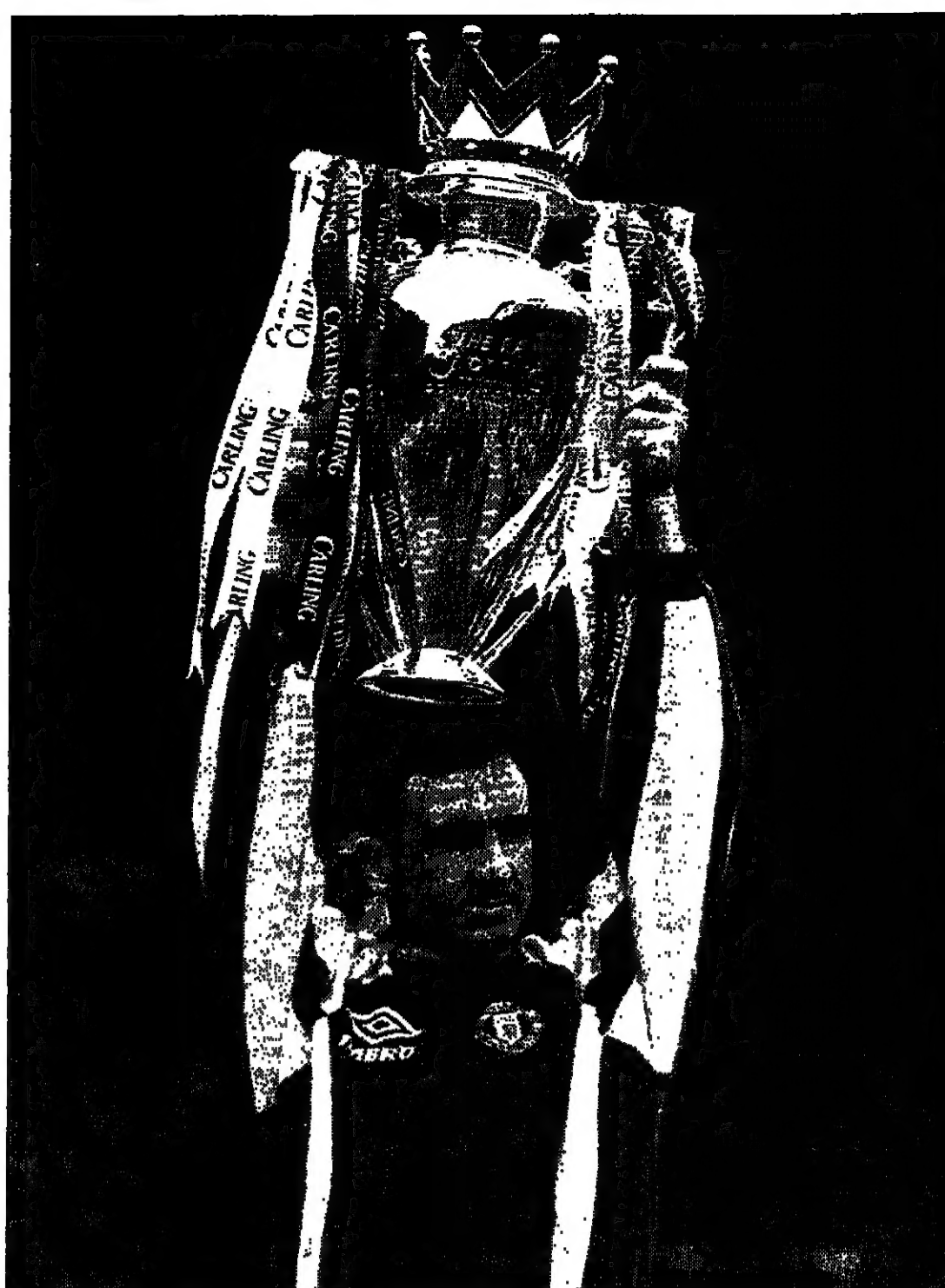
Arsenal played most of the game at Derby with 10 men after going behind and then losing Tony Adams, who was expelled for two yellow cards. But Ian Wright hit two and Dennis Bergkamp turned the match around for a 3-1 win.

The results meant Newcastle, Arsenal and Liverpool all finished on 68 points, seven fewer than Manchester United, and the Magpies gained second place on a superior goal difference.

Arsenal and Liverpool, which finished second and third, ended the UEFA Cup along with Aston Villa, which finished fourth after beating Southampton.

Manchester United celebrated their fourth league title in five years with a 2-0 victory over West Ham with goals from Ole Gunnar Solskjaer and Jordi Cruyff.

Aston Villa 1, Southampton 0 The only goal came in the 12th minute when Saints defender



TOPS AGAIN — Manchester United captain Eric Cantona holds the Premier League trophy aloft. United has won the Premiership four of the last five years.

Richard Dryden accidentally turned a cross from Villa's Portuguese fullback Fernando Nelson past his own goalkeeper.

Blackburn 2, Leicester 4

Emile Heskey fired, Leicester ahead in the 13th minute but Gary Flitcroft leveled 12 minutes later. Steve Claridge regained the lead for the Foxes in the 55th and Heskey made it 3-1 a minute later.

Blackburn's Graham Fenton replied but Stuart Wilson hit Leicester's fourth 9 minutes from the end.

Derby 1, Arsenal 3

After Ashley Ward had given Derby a ninth-minute lead, the Gunners lost Adams in the 13th minute for clattering into Darryl Powell and collecting his second yellow card. But Arsenal hit back in the second half and Wright leveled in the 55th minute.

Bergkamp gave Arsenal the lead eight minutes from the end and Wright netted his 30th goal of the season in the final minute.

Everton 1, Chelsea 2

Dennis Wise fired Chelsea ahead in the 14th minute but the visitors

lost goalkeeper Frode Grodas in the 21st when he was sent off for a professional foul on Duncan Ferguson. Manager Ruud Gullit took off Gianluca Vialli so that he could send on a replacement goalkeeper.

Kevin Hitchcock. Despite being short-handed, Chelsea went further ahead through Roberto Di Matteo's 36th-minute header before Nicky Barry hit back for Everton 13 minutes from the end.

Leeds 1, Middlesbrough 1

Middlesbrough were unable to field Fabrizio Ravanelli who

failed a fitness test.

Leeds went ahead in the 76th minute when Brian Deane headed the ball inside the post with an expertly-placed long range header from Rod Wallace's cross from deep. Three minutes later Juninho broke in from the left and his shot deflected off a defender.

Man United 2, West Ham 0

In the 12th minute, Paul Scholes's 20-yard shot hit the underside of the crossbar and appeared to cross the line before bouncing out and Solskjaer headed into an empty net with goalkeeper Ludek Miklosko grounded. Six minutes from the end, substitute Cruyff scored with a well-struck left footer from Eric Cantona's pass.

Following the match, it was announced that Alex Ferguson won the Premier League Manager

of the Year award.

Newcastle 5, Notts Forest 0

The Magpies hit four goals in the first half minutes starting in the 20th minute. Asprilla netted from Warren Barton's pass and then Ferdinand scored after being set up by the Colombian. Ferdinand took Barton's pass to score the third in the 26th minute and Alan Shearer made it 4-0 10 minutes later. Robbie Elliott scored the fifth.

Sheff Wed 1, Liverpool 1

After 75 scoreless minutes, O'Neill Donaldson gave

Wednesday the lead. Jamie Redknapp netted an 83rd-minute equalizer from a free kick after substitute goalkeeper Matt Clarke had been sent off for deliberate handball outside the penalty area. That meant Wednesday had to field a third goalkeeper, sending

striker Andy Booth between the posts, and he was beaten by Redknapp's free kick.

Tottenham 1, Coventry 2

The Sky Blues went ahead with Dion Dublin's 13th-minute header from Gary McAllister's cross. Paul Williams made it 2-0 in the 39th with a left foot volley in off the post from another McAllister cross.

In the 45th minute, Spurs pulled one back when Paul McVeigh fired home from Teddy Sheringham's free kick.

FINAL STANDINGS

Premier League	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ch-Man Utd	38	21	12	5	78	44	75
Newcastle	38	19	11	8	73	40	68
Arsenal	38	19	11	8	62	32	68
Liverpool	38	19	11	8	62	37	68
Aston Villa	38	17	10	11	47	34	61
Chelsea	38	18	11	11	58	59	59
Sheff Wed	38	14	15	9	50	51	57
Wimbledon	38	15	11	12	49	46	56
Leicester	38	12	11	15	46	54	47
Tottenham	38	13	7	18	44	51	46
Leeds	38	11	13	14	28	36	46
Derby	38	11	13	14	35	68	46
Blackburn	38	9	15	14	42	43	42
West Ham	38	10	12	16	39	48	42
Everton	38	10	12	16	44	57	42
Southampton	38	10	11	17	50	41	41
Coventry	38	9	14	15	38	54	41
r-Sunderland	38	10	10	18	53	40	40
r-Middlesbrough	38	10	12	16	51	60	39
r-Nott Forest	38	6	18	13	51	59	34
Middlesbrough deducted 3 points for calling off game							

Division One

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ch-Bolton	48	25	14	4	100	53
p-Barnsley	48	22	14	12	78	50
po-Wolves	48	22	10	16	68	51
po-Ipswich	48	20	14	14	50	54
po-Sheff Utd	48	20	13	15	75	52
po-Crystal P	48	18	14	15	63	51
Portsmouth	48	20	8	18	59	53
Port Vale	48	17	18	13	58	57
QPR	48	18	12	18	64	56
Birmingham	48	17	14	17	52	55
Tranmere	48	17	14	17	53	55
Stoke	48	18	10	18	51	57
Doncaster	48	17	12	19	53	58
Millwall	48	17	10	19	59	60
Charlton	48	16	11	19	52	58
Walsley	48	14	15	17	68	57
Reading	48	16	9	21	54	57
Swindon	48	15	9	22	52	54
Huddersfield	48	13	15	18	48	51
Bradford	48	12	18	17	52	48
r-Grimsby	48	11	13	22	60	41
r-Oldham	48	10	13	23	51	40
r-Southend	48	8	15	23	42	39

Division Two

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ch-Bury	48	24	12	10	82	38
p-Stockport	48	23	10	15	59	41
po-Luton	48	24	12	10	67	44
po-Brentford	48	20	14	12	58	43
po-Bristol City	48	21	10	15	59	51
po-Crewe	48	22	12	17	58	47
Blackpool	48	18	15	15	60	47
Wrexham	48	17	18	11	54	50
Burnley	48	19	11	16	71	55
Chesterfield	48	18	14	14	42	39
Gillingham	48	16	10	17	53	57
Walsall	48	19	10	17	54	57
Walsley	48	16	19	11	45	38
Millwall	48	16	13	17	50	51
Preston	48	16	7	21	46	51
B-mouth	48	15	15	18	43	45
Bristol R	48	15	11	20	47	50
Wycombe	48	15	10	21	51	58
Plymouth	48	12	18	16	47	54
York	48	13	13	20	47	52
r-Peterborough	48	11	14	21	55	47
r-Shrewsbury	48	11	13	22	49	44
r-Rotherham	48	7	14	25	39	35
r-Nott County	48	7	14	25	33	35

Division Three

ch-Wigan	48	26	9	11	84	51	87
p-Fulham	48	25	12	9	72	38	87
p-Cardiff	48	24	12	10	67	44	81
po-North-Don	48	20	12	14	47	44	74
po-Swansea	48	21	8	17	62	58	71
po-Chester	48	18	16	12	55	43	70
po-Cardiff	48	20	9	17	54	54	69
po-North-Don	48	20	12	14	47	44	69
Lincoln	48	18	12	16	70	59	66
Camb Utd	48	18	11	17	53	59	65
Marine	48	16	14	14	47	45	64
Scarborough	48	15	15	15	65	63	63
Southport	48	18	9	19	59	62	62
Rochdale	48	14	18	16	58	58	58
Barnet	48	14	14	16	58	51	58
Leyton O	48	15	12	19	50	50	57
Hull	48	13	18	15	44	44	50
Derlington	48	14	10	22	64	75	52
Doncaster	48	14	10	22	62	66	52
Hartlepool	48	14	9	23	63	66	51
Torquay	48	13	11	22	46	62	50
Exeter	48	12	12	22	48	62	73
Brighton	48	13	10	23	53	70	47
r-Hatfield	48	11	14	21	50	65	47
Brighton deducted 2 points because of fans' field invasion							

Scottish Premier

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ch-Rangers	38	25	5	6	85	33
Celtic	38	23	6	7	78	32
Dundee Utd	38	17	9	10	46	33
Heart of Midlothian	38	16	10	10	52	32
Dumfries	38	12	10	12	52	45
Aberdeen	38	10	14	12	45	44
Kilmarnock	38	11	6	18	41	39
Motherwell	38	9	11	18	44	38
po-Hibernian	38	11	14	11	58	38
r-Raith	38	6	7	23	29	25

ch - champion, p - promoted, po - playoff, r - relegated

Sunday's results

Premier League: Aston Villa 1, Southampton 1; Blackburn 2, Leicester 1; Arsenal 3, Everton 1; Chelsea 2, Leeds 1; Middlesbrough 1; Manchester United 2, West Ham 0; Newcastle 5, Nottingham Forest 0; Sheffield Wednesday 1, Liverpool 1; Tottenham 1, Coventry 2; Wimbledon 1, Sunderland 0.

Division Two playoffs: Bristol City 1, Brentford 2; Crewe 2, Luton 1.

Division Three playoffs: Cardiff 0, Northampton 1; Chester 0, Swansea 0.

CLASSIFIEDS</

CRITIC'S CHOICE

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Fresh from its sell-out triumphs in Vienna and Budapest, the riotous Cameri production of Shakespeare's *A Comedy of Errors* returns to the main stage. Director Omri Niznan puts both sets of twins in 1980s Beirut, and Dan Almagor's up-to-the-minute translation (for which he won the 1996 Israel Theater Prize) keeps the jokes topical. The show won the ITP Best Comedy award too. Tonight at 8:30 p.m. (Hebrew with simultaneous translation into English.)

DANCE

HELEN KAYE

The BatSheva Dance Company's new program, featuring Amanda Miller's challenging *Toy Artist* and Jiri Kylian's hauntingly beautiful *No Sleep Until Dawn of Day* are in Jerusalem tonight, at the Sherover Theater at 8:30 p.m. On Friday they'll be at Beit Gabriel on the Kinneret at 10 p.m.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Winners of the Paul Ben-Haim Music Competition perform tonight in a special awards ceremony festive concert at the Einav Center in Tel Aviv (8). Lavon Chilingirian presents masterclasses for string quartets today only (10 a.m.-1 & 3-5) at the Jerusalem Music Center. Tomorrow Chilingirian is joined by the three other musicians, who with him form the Chilingirian Quartet, as they make their Israeli debut playing quartets by Bart, Taverne and Schubert at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center (8:30).

TELEVISION

ELANA CHIPMAN

Tonight's *Fact* with Ilana Dayan promises a particularly controversial and interesting report. "The Road To Rabin Square," written and directed by Michael Karpin, follows the long campaign of incitement and hatred against Yitzhak Rabin, in Israel and the U.S., in the two years prior to his assassination.

This film has caused controversy even before being screened. Justice Minister Tzvi Hanegbi has threatened to sue the makers of the film, who imply



Ilana Dayan hosts a particularly controversial 'Fact,' tonight on Channel 2 at 10:15 p.m.

that he was partly responsible for the incitement. Channel 2, 10:15 p.m.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

***1/2 THE ENGLISH PATIENT - Watching Anthony Minghella's Oscar-winning film after absorbing all the clouds of second-hand smoke blown our way by the PR people and by positive, if five-months-old, word of mouth from friends abroad, it's hard to grasp exactly what the great fuss was about. The picture seems, at this late date, little more than a respectfully-made bit of high-class kitsch, a sometimes moving, often rather silly, love story set in a series of exotic locales and peppered with just enough literary leavages from Michael Ondaatje's lyrical novel to make it acceptable to "discriminating" viewers. (At two hours and 40 minutes, it's also much too long.) The basic outline - a flashback-filled romance, set in the Sahara and northern Italy before, during and just after World War II - is Ondaatje's. But, as should be clear from even a single still photo, the floridly picturesque look of the movie, its grand, sandy landscapes, dripping symphonic score and unabashedly swoony approach to the doomed lovers at its center render Minghella's *The English Patient* a tribute to the golden old Hollywood of *Casablanca* and *Lawrence of Arabia*. Propeller planes and white men in galabiyas abound. With Ralph Fiennes, Kristin Scott Thomas and Juliette Binoche. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. Not recommended for children.)

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash
6:31 New in Arabic
6:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 The Book of Genesis
8:30 Art Workshop
9:00 History
9:30 Health
9:45 For the very young

10:15 French
10:30 Mathematics
10:40 Literature
11:15 Sciences
11:30 Science and Technology

12:00 Geography
12:30 Movie Magic
13:00 In the Heat of the Night
14:00 Surprise Train
14:30 Kitty Cat and Tommy
14:35 Quentin Quack
15:00 Zombit

CHANNEL 1

15:30 The Adventures of Asterix part 3
16:30 Asterix in Britain
16:45 Super Ben
17:30 Shakespeare
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Apropro
19:00 News
19:30 Hebrew
20:00 News
20:30 News flash
20:31 Muppets
20:32 News
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20:34 News
20:35 News
20:36 News
20:37 News
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34:25 News
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34:27 News
34:28 News
34:29 News
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15:00 French program
16:00 Super Sports
16:45 Zingara
17:30 Good Evening with Guy Pines
18:00 Local Broadcast
18:30 One Life to Live
19:15 The Young and the Restless
20:00 Sunset Beach
20:50 Beverly Hills 90210
21:40 Suddenly Susan
22:05 The Single Guy
22:30 Love Story with Yossi Sassi
23:00 Standby - 1st season of America's most popular comedy
23:25 Babylon 5
00:15 ENG Newsroom
1:05 Barnaby Jones

MIDDLE EAST TV

7:00 TV Shop
14:30 700 Club
15:00 The Moomins
15:30 Dennis the Menace
16:00 Larry King
17:00 Family Challenge
17:45 Beakman's World
18:10 Perfect Strangers
18:35 Saved by the Bell
19:00 Showbiz
19:30 World News Tonight (Arabic)
20:00 Soccer
20:50 The Bounty
21:00 Asterix in Britain
21:45 Super Ben
22:30 Shakespeare
23:00 News in English

CHANNEL 1

15:30 The Adventures of Asterix part 3
16:30 Asterix in Britain
16:45 Super Ben
17:30 Shakespeare
18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Apropro
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Bible Quiz winners

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu congratulates Orit Bernard, 17, of Beersheba, and Aviv Portal, 17, of Netivot, who won the International Bible Quiz for Jewish Youth yesterday.

S. Africa nabs 2 Israeli women for smuggling

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) — Two Israeli women were charged in a South African court yesterday for trying to smuggle uncut diamonds out of the country, using

condoms concealed in their private parts, police said. The diamonds were worth 3.5 million rand (\$784,753). "The two women were found in

possession of five condoms containing diamonds. The condoms had been concealed in the women's private parts," police spokesman Captain Sipho

Ngubane said in a statement. He said the two women were arrested on Saturday at Johannesburg International Airport.

Wiesel's refusal to join fund may delay payouts

BERN, Switzerland (AP) — Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel's refusal to take a leading position on a board of a Holocaust compensation fund will likely delay payouts to needy victims, the fund's head said Saturday.

Rolf Bloch, a respected Swiss Jewish leader, said he had tried in vain to convince Wiesel to accept the post of international chairman.

Wiesel informed the Swiss government late Friday that he did not want the position because he did not feel qualified to take part in deciding which victims should receive how much money.

Bloch said he had hoped that payments from the fund — which contains 165 million Swiss francs (\$112 million) donated by Swiss banks and businesses — would begin in the summer. This will now be put back somewhat, he told The Associated Press.

Following an international outcry over Swiss banks' dealings with the Nazis, the fund was established earlier this year to help elderly and destitute peo-

ple whose families lost assets to the Nazis.

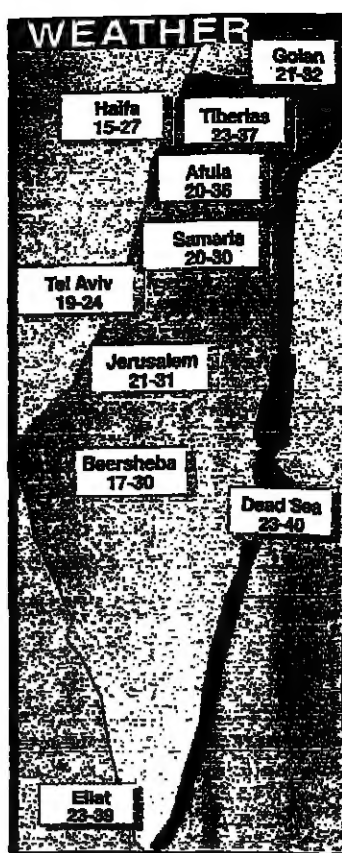
Jewish groups maintain Swiss banks may hold assets and interest from Holocaust victims totaling up to \$7 billion. The banks have so far managed to trace only a tiny fraction of this.

Wiesel's decision to pull out deprives the board of its most powerful moral force and was seen as an embarrassment to the Swiss government, which said it deeply regretted the move.

It will also likely embarrass the World Jewish Restitution Organization, which had held out for Wiesel to be given a senior position in the fund.

Wiesel won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986 for chronicling the Nazi genocide. He was freed at 16 from Buchenwald, where his father died.

Swiss Foreign Minister Flavio Cotti immediately wrote to the WRJO, asking it to name a replacement quickly. Bloch said organizational and legal work would continue as planned in the meantime.



AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	C	HIGH	F	
Amsterdam	09	10	17	63	cloudy
Berlin	09	10	22	72	cloudy
Buenos Aires	18	21	26	79	clear
Cairo	18	21	34	83	clear
Chicago	06	43	52	72	cloudy
Frankfurt	11	12	17	63	cloudy
Geneva	13	15	19	60	sun
Hamburg	06	43	52	72	cloudy
London	09	10	18	64	cloudy
Los Angeles	18	21	26	79	cloudy
Moscow	09	10	18	64	cloudy
New York	09	10	18	64	cloudy
Paris	09	10	18	64	cloudy
Rome	11	12	17	63	cloudy
Sydney	09	10	18	64	cloudy
Tokyo	17	18	25	77	cloudy
Toronto	09	10	18	64	cloudy
Zurich	11	12	17	63	rain

BIS confirms Nazi gold deals, opens archives

ZURICH (Reuters) — The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) yesterday released a detailed account of its Nazi gold transactions and pledged to open its secretive wartime archives to the public from July.

The BIS board of directors, made up of central bank governors from the Group of Ten (G10) industrialized countries, also decided to make available all documents older than 30 years, from next January.

The report, which was audited by Coopers & Lybrand, confirmed earlier BIS statements that Hitler's Reichsbank transferred 13.5 tons of gold to BIS between 1939 and 1945.

A final shipment of 1.5 tons in April 1945 never reached Switzerland because it was stopped at the German-Swiss border.

After World War II, BIS handed back 3.7 tons of the gold to the Allied powers after it was identified as looted by Germany from the central banks of Belgium, Italy and the Netherlands.

BIS general manager Andrew Crockett told a news conference the report gives a detailed "bar by bar" account of its Nazi gold dealings.

Crockett said the report did not delve into the issue of whether dealing with Nazi Germany was morally justified.

"It is fair to say our original focus has been to establish facts rather than to try to guess the motivations and opinions (of wartime BIS management)," Crockett said. "The facts are there and I prefer to let others judge whether the behavior of BIS was appropriate during the war."

Mother gives liver lobe to save son

By JUDY SIEGEL

Amal Fallah, a Beduin mother of six living near Nazareth, yesterday donated a lobe of her liver to save the life of her four-and-a-half-year-old son, who had gone into a coma due to complications of hepatitis A.

The boy, Bassal, was hospitalized at Schneider Children's Medical Center of Israel in Petah Tikva 10 days ago, but despite efforts to treat his deteriorating liver, it stopped functioning and his condition worsened. When told that transplanting a liver was the only way to save him, both parents volunteered immediately, but the 29-year-old mother was found more suitable.

The dual operation was carried out by Drs. Eitan Mor, Ezra Shaharabani, and Natan Bar-Or at the Rabin Medical Center-Bellinson Campus, adjacent to Schneider. Amal and her husband,

Adnan, who live in the small village of Arab el-Hib, have five other children, including a pair of two-year-old twins.

This was the third transplant of a liver lobe from a live donor since the procedure was approved by the Health Ministry late last year for only the Rabin Center to perform. The hospital is only one of 19 in the whole world to perform such surgery.

All three children who have undergone the procedure are Arabs, and each required the transplant because of complications from hepatitis. After the operation, the boy was returned in stable condition to Schneider's intensive care unit, and Amal to Bellinson, where she regained consciousness.

In a few days, when her condition allows, she will be taken to Schneider to visit her son. Adnan yesterday rushed from one hospital to another to visit them both.

Winning Chance cards

In yesterday's Chance drawings, the lucky cards were the ace of spades, 10 of hearts, king of diamonds and jack of clubs; and the jack of spades, king of hearts, queen of diamonds and queen of clubs.

In Sunday's Chance drawing, the lucky cards were the king of spades, king of hearts, 10 of diamonds and king of clubs.

The Registrar of Realtors Notice to Land Realtors

The list of subjects which will be included in the examination for land realtor licenses, to be held in August 1997, has been approved. (The exact date of the examination has not yet been set.)

The list of subjects will be sent for perusal to the Malden management in Tel Aviv, to the bureau of land realtors in Jerusalem and to the colleges offering courses in real estate.

The date for registering for the examination or, alternately, for submitting a request for exemption from the examination will be announced in a separate notice.

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